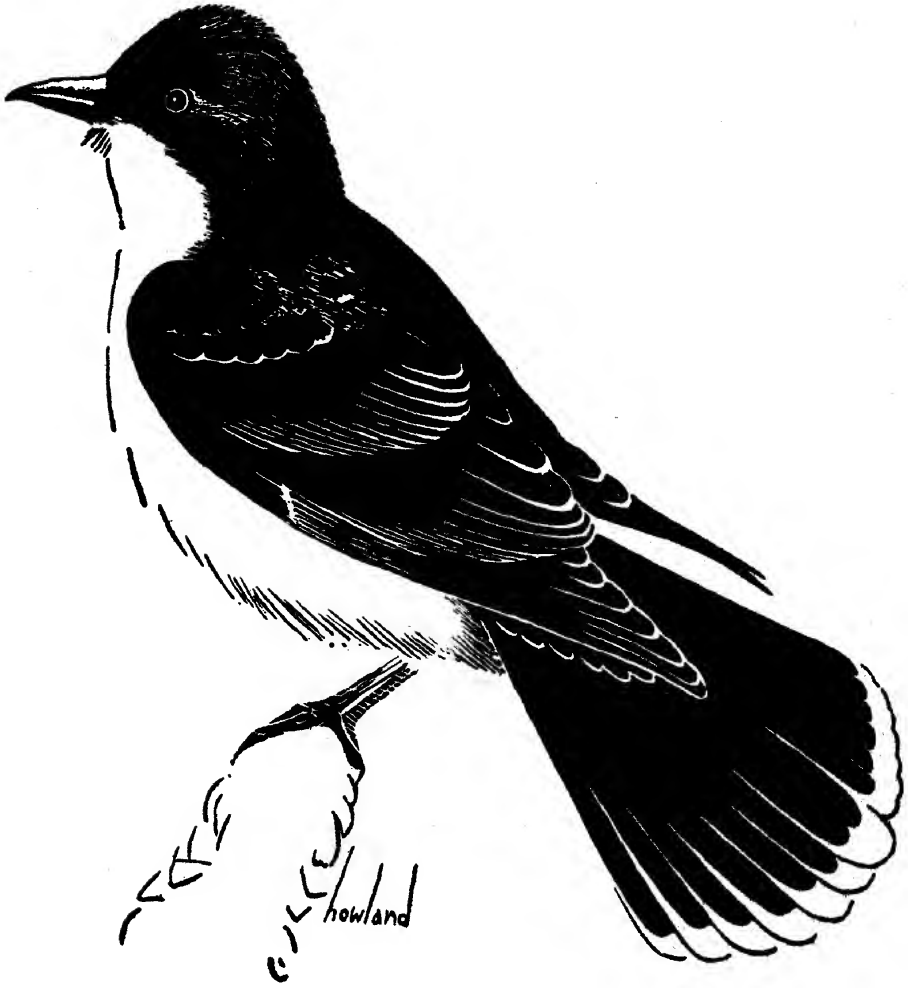
The KINGBIRD



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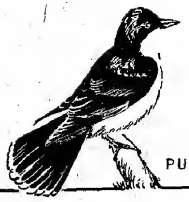

The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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PREIDENT'S PAGE

In the April issue of "New York Birders" I reported a number of activities and projects recommended by the Federation's Board of Directors as desirable to enhance the enjoyment and value of the Federation to its club and individual members, and to birding generally in New York state. These suggestions have elicited favorable comment and, in fact, a volunteer at once came forward to undertake one of them – i.e. a state-wide May count. Reports on that have begun to come in and it is my hope that the next issue of New York Birders will contain a report of our first state-wide spring census.

I mention this because it illustrates what must happen if the things that are needed to keep the Federation viable, valuable and vital are to be accomplished. The Federation needs many more people who will move out of a provincial orbit and come forward to take a personal, active interest and participation in Federation affairs. Don't wait to be asked – we don't know all of you and your talents. Come forward.

Just as a reminder, here are some of the projects for which we need workers:

1. Federation-sponsored field trips at times other than annual meeting – including pelagic trips.

2. Development of a list of birders in each region who are willing to be asked for information on local birding – or willing to take visiting birders into the field.

3. Preparation of a list of speakers available for club programs – a very helpful project.

4. Prepare a publication on "Where To Bird in New York State" – more detailed and inclusive than currently available publications. This could complement Bull's forthcoming new State bird book.

5. Develop a State check-list.

6. Write a brochure – "So You Want to Start a Bird Club" – a how-to-do-it booklet.

There are no doubt other projects we haven't thought of but you have.

I hope to hear from many of you asking what you can do for the Federation so it can "do" for its members. Your officers can't do it alone.

Gordon M. Meade, M.D.

WATERBIRD COLONIES OF LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK
2. Wantagh Parkway Colony

MICHAEL GOCHFELD

In 1971 and 1972 a tern colony existed on an artificial spoil bank dredged out of the New York State boat channel, about 300 meters north of the Jones Beach Fishing Station, Nassau County, New York. The colony was on the bay side (north side) of the barrier beach and was accessible from the Wantagh Parkway, as appears on the map which follows. A history of the brief existence of this colony is of interest since it illustrates various factors involved in the dramatic rise and decline of terneries.

The colony originally (July 1971) an elliptical area of land fill, 100 x 130 meters, surrounded on three sides by Phragmites (*Phragmites communis*) and on the bay side by Salt-water Cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*). The Cordgrass marsh extended north from the colony site along the parkway and was occupied by breeding Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrows (*Ammospiza maritima* and *A. caudacuta*), Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), and Clapper Rails (*Rallus longirostris*).

No terns nested at Wantagh in June 1970, although a few pair may have arrived later in that season after unsuccessful nesting attempts elsewhere. The colony was first found to be occupied in 1971, when 200 pair of Common Terns and 40 pair of Black Skimmers were estimated in early July. The colony was augmented later in July by an influx of nesting terns, presumably after frustrated earlier nesting attempts. A sample of late-nesting terns were trapped on the nest and included one bird that had been banded 5 weeks earlier on a nest at West End Beach, about 6 kilometers to the west. Although there was very little vegetation in the colony itself, the substrate contained many sod-like bumps and pieces of driftwood of sufficient size to provide shade to young tern chicks. Older chicks moved to the edges of the colony where they hid among the *Phragmites*. The *Phragmites*, however, provided shelter for rats, and at least 50 carsasses of young terns showed evidence of having been killed by these animals. Nevertheless, I estimated from the number of young that we banded and from the number of flying young seen at the colony, that probably 200-300 chicks fledged successfully. Although the actual number of breeding pairs of terns was not known, it was certainly less than 300 pair. The high incidence of premature feather loss (Gochfeld 1971) which afflicted terns on western Long Island, and also at Gull Island, Suffolk County (Hays and Risebrough 1972), did not spare the Wantagh colony, for chicks with feather loss were found there in 1971.

Plans were made to study the colony in detail in 1972, and most of

the work was undertaken by Mr. Richard Kremer, studying under Dr. Jon S. Greenlaw. At least 550 nests were marked by June 12, and by June 20, I estimated that perhaps 600 pair of Common Terns and 50 pair of Black Skimmers were present. The entire season had been a rainy one, and the suboptimal (from the tern's viewpoint) weather was followed by the arrival of Hurricane Agnes which produced more cold wet weather in the third week of June. The hurricane eliminated about 60-70% of the nests by flooding, and on June 25 the remaining birds were more shy and less aggressive. The weather continued to be cool, but it seems likely that these birds would have continued to incubate or brood, and the unsuccessful ones might have renested except for the human disturbance which occurred. Over the next two weeks, Greenlaw, D. B. Ford, and I visited the colony on several occasions and found evidence that beach buggies had been driven through the colony, that adult birds had been shot, and that groups of people had used the colony site for parties. Although a vigorous aggressive colony would probably have dissuaded beach-goers from interfering in the colony, the few remaining terns which showed diminished aggressiveness, apparently could not deter the human intruders. Austin (1946) and Palmer (1941) have previously noted that small or disturbed colonies are less effective in the aggressive protection directed against intruders. Not only were adult birds killed, but the intrusion presumably kept adults from incubating or from brooding and feeding their young. Each visit revealed a steady decline, and the colony was abandoned by July 8.

I surveyed the colony twice weekly from early May to mid-June and from late July to early September 1973. Two pair of Common Terns and three pair of Piping Plover were found nesting in early June. Both tern nests and one plover nest failed. There was no evidence of any late nesting attempted at the Wantagh colony, and relatively few birds even passed over the site, although adult terns frequented the fishing pier only 300 meters away. Since the West End Colony which numbered about 1100 pair in 1972 had about 1700 pair in 1973, it seems likely that this increment was made up in large part by birds that nested at Wantagh in 1972. This was not substantiated by the adult trapping program, however. Austin (1940, 1942) and Austin jr. (1932, 1933) discuss at considerable length the tendency of adult terns to return to their natal colony and to locations where they have previously bred successfully, until such colonies become uninhabitable. They also documented massive inter-colony shifts after the initial nest attempt in a season was unsuccessful.

By August 1973 I found that the Wantagh colony area had declined in size by about 10% compared with 1971, due mainly to the intrusion of several stands of Phragmites, propagating by superficial runners.

The above discussion has centered principally on Common Terns,

the dominant species at Wantagh and elsewhere on Long Island. I have not found Roseate Terns nesting at Wantagh. In 1971 and 1972 one to three pair of Least Terns (S. *albifrons*) were seen at edges of the colony but no nests or young were found. The Least Tern shows strong preference for open beach on Long Island and elsewhere (e.g. Mead 1973), but are increasingly resorting to spoil banks and landfill as beach sites become less available (e.g., Duffy and Poole 1973). From three to seven pair of Piping Plovers have nested each year at Wantagh, and in 1972, 9-12 young probably reached flying age, from the five nests found.

The second most prominent species at Wantagh was the Black Skimmer. Approximately 40 pair nested during the 1971 season, and nesting was prolonged for some birds due to repeated failures. Three young Skimmers that had been previously banded and color marked, fledged successfully between 21 and 24 September. In 1972 I marked 68 nests of Black Skimmers. Skimmers began hatching on 17 June, but due to the combined effects of inclement weather and human disturbance, none survived to more than 10 days of age. D. B. Ford noted the appearance of about 40 or more pairs of Black Skimmers at the Cedar Beach colony in Suffolk County, 12 miles east of Wantagh, in mid-July. Although a Wantagh to Cedar Beach movement was not documented by observation or capture of color-marked or banded birds, it is likely that some or all of the late-arriving Skimmers observed at Cedar Beach had come from the recently-eliminated Wantagh colony.

The brief history of the Wantagh Parkway colony demonstrates the opportunistic nature of colony-site selection by terns. The relatively good productivity experienced in 1971 suggests that the colony site was an appropriate one, while abandonment of this new colony after a frustrated breeding season, suggests that terns can, in some way, incorporate such information into future choices of sites. Further study is required to determine how much information is integrated and utilized in colony-selection behavior. Comparison with the West End Beach colony is illuminating, since that colony also experienced severe reproductive failure in one season (1971), but was still occupied in 1972 and 1973. Various reports by Austin (e.g., 1940, 1946, 1947) relate tenacity to the size of a colony and the number of years that birds have occupied it.

Finally, the Wantagh colony site will be observed periodically in future seasons, to determine whether it is reoccupied. If so, the trapping of nesting adults can indicate the source of the recolonizing birds, since over 2000 young terns have been banded annually on the south shore of Long Island in recent years.

The following map will be useful in identifying the waterbird colonies referred to by Dr. Gochfeld in this series of articles.

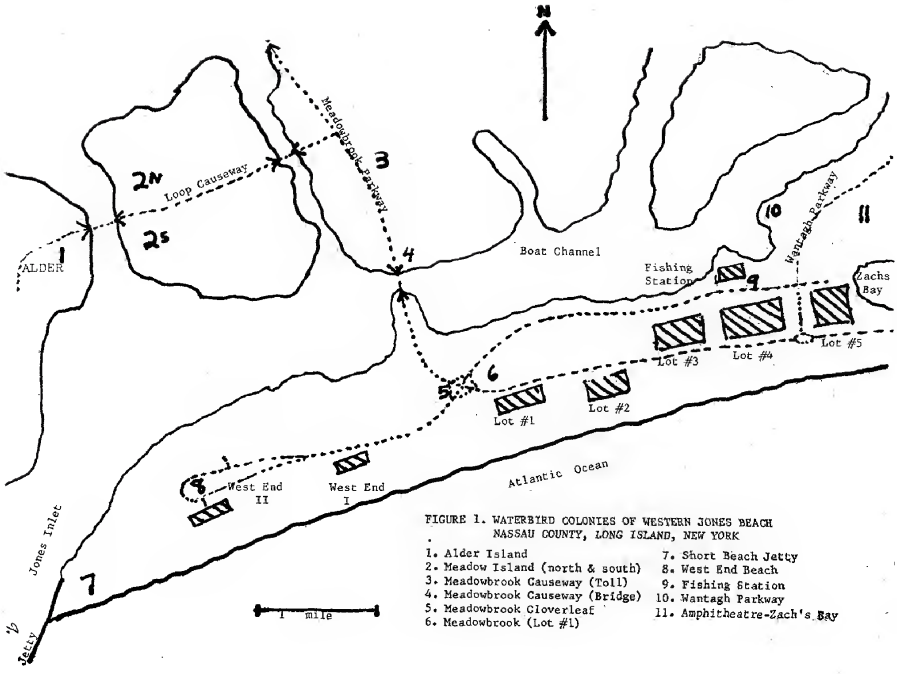

FIGURE 1. WATERBIRD COLONIES OF WESTERN JONES BEACH NASSAU COUNTY, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

1. Alder Island
2. Meadow Island (north & south)
3. Meadowbrook Causeway (Toll)
4. Meadowbrook Causeway (Bridge)
5. Meadowbrook Cloverleaf
6. Meadowbrook (Lot #1)
7. Short Beach Jetty
8. West End Beach
9. Fishing Station
10. Wantagh Parkway
11. Amphitheatre-Zach's Bay

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1974 FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING

The 27th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, to be hosted by the Jamestown Audubon Society and the Lake Erie Bird Club, will be held October 18-20, 1974, with headquarters at the Holiday Inn of Dunkirk-Fredonia, Bennett Road, Fredonia, New York.

This is a fine time of year in Chautaugua County with the fall colors at their peak and with excellent birding opportunities. The areas to be covered on the Federation field trips include the Lake Erie shore, beautiful Chautauqua Lake, the foothills of the Alleghenies and several bird sanctuaries in differing habitats. The waterfowl migration should be substantially at its peak. In 1973 twenty species of geese and ducks were recorded by the Buffalo Ornithological Society on its October count. There should also be good numbers of late shorebirds and warblers.

Members who wish to register in advance, or to reserve rooms at the Holiday Inn, or to present a paper at the Paper Session on the afternoon of October 19 may use the forms on page 101 of this issue, which should be mailed to Dr. Allen H. Benton, Department of Biology, State University College, Fredonia, N.Y. 14063. For those wishing to camp or stay at another motel, lists of campsites and such motels will shortly be published in "New York Birders," together with the general program for the meeting.

THE BIRDS OF THE CONNETQUOT

PAT SANTORA

It is hard to convince those who do not know Long Island (and some who do) that there could be anything naturally perfect left of our once-upon-a-time "garden of wildflowers." Would you believe a pristine river, a corridor of birds, deer, and flowers in timeless tranquillity half-way across this frenetic island?

Birders who rush to New England or New Jersey do not always realize the fine field-trips offered by the Metropolitan Area. "Things have changed since Kieran," they say. Still from Montauk Point to Jamaica Bay, all the pelagic and shorebirds—auks to oystercatchers—may be seen in their season, many overwintering. Alley Pond Park in western Long Island is the place to go in spring for the passerines. But nothing (except offshore and off-limits Gardiner's Island) provides bird or birder year-'round occupation — the bird by tenancy, the birder by tendency — more rewarding than the marshes, ponds, and forest of the Connetquot River in Islip Town.

When a river is so unpolluted as to be drinkable as it flows from headwaters to estuary; when it has been protected by sportsmen, owners, government, and conservationists for three hundred years; when its drainage pattern is an ecotone — why should an abundance of wildlife, floral as well as avian, be surprising?

The variety of habitat welcomes a heterogeneous population. Canada warbler nests beside Carolina wren and white-eyed vireo. To Long Islanders, the cardinal and the mockingbird are dooryard commoners, but visitors to whom these seem exotic southerners may be startled at the brilliance of the one and the heraldic wingbars of the other across the snow.

In the six miles of Connetquot sweet water (the estuary, as Kipling would say, is another story), 75 species breed, with 225 transients recorded. These include the bald eagle.

For some time a stranger to Long Island, the eastern bluebird is established at the Connetquot. This author has crouched in a blackberry patch, with other recompense than comfort, to watch bluebirds feed their young. Shivering Christmas-counters are warmed by the sight of bluebirds feeding on the inkberry.

Among nest builders, nothing stirs the imagination more than the brown creepers. Under a flap of loose bark, these little fellows pack rough grasses and leaves, then install a lining that feel like foam-rubber. the brown casing from stems of young cinnamon fern. To discover such a nest is a minor birding triumph, but the finder must return circumspectly, lest an inquisitive raccoon wonder what this trail is all about and destroy eggs or nestlings.

Beloved Conetquot natives include the hermit thrush (Long Island's poet's 'shy singer") and the whip-poor-will. Driven from many of his former haunts by pesticides and bulldozers, the "nightjar" of the nostalgic call has sanctuary here.

The Connetquot was spared the aerial pesticide-dousing that so much of Long Island has had to endure. In winter, the mosaic bark of pitch-pines is studded with gypsy-moth egg-cases, but the summer woods seem none the worse. Yellowthroats have been observed feeding the larvae to their young.

The most common birds are the Eastern towhee and the Maryland yellowthroat (we stick to old ways at the Connetquot, including venerable nomenclature). Graduate studies recently done here of these two species prove that each bird has an individual voice as well as an extensive "vocabulary."

Wood ducks, surely painted by the Creator in a moment of fantasy, hug the shadowed shores of backwater pools, but nest in hollow trees. The gray gadwall, considered a rare breeder in the East, may be seen with its young at the Connetquot.

Yearly other species join the citizenry. Two years ago, a prothonotary warbler, the little golden bird, was first heard singing; last spring, he may have found a suitable companion. Sometimes these things take time! Enough Acadian flycatchers have been heard to indicate that they, too, are now residents.

An osprey nest was found in the summer of '73, a bitter-sweet discovery; sweet, that this wonderful creature has returned; bitter, both because he was 'til very recently common on Long Island, and because the nest was empty.

Contrary to the authority on wild turkeys who in a recent issue of *THE CONSERVATIONIST* listed Long Island as having "No Potential" for this bird, the Connetquot's flock has been established for well over a decade. In springtime magnificence, the wild turkey promenades not only through these woods but also at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge and Gardiner's Island.

Among visiting species, the most intriguing may well have been the Richardson's goose (or Hutchins', if you prefer) that appeared once among a flock of Canadas. A photo taken of the geese feeding on a lake-side path clearly displays the difference. Widely disseminated, the picture should settle (or rekindle) the old debate.

The headwaters of the Connetquot are woodcock country. Spring and summer reveal the full diapason of Connetquot vegetation here: sun-dew and Labrador tea to swamp-azalea and wild sweet-pepper to arbutus and sweetfern. Yet one November day, we found gerardia as well as groundsel in bloom. We intruded upon what must have been

swamp-sparrow headquarters. Rusty caps popped up to reconnoiter our passage and bulletins were trilled all along the bog. A little mixed flock of chickadees and both kinds of kinglet accompanied us a while. When we left off sloshing and trudged over barrens, a hermit thrush crossed our path. I cannot be sure I saw a grouse scuttling into the underbrush, although grouse and ring-necked pheasant are familiar sights in the Connetquot area.

At Honeysuckle Pond (part of the headwaters), a small rosy cloud of crossbills lifted from a tall pine; a kingfisher protested our interference with his occupational pursuit: flickers flashed golden wings. A winter wren wanted to know what we were about, and would not be intimidated.

Continuing this trail a week later, Dennis Puleston and Robert Griffen (for eight years foreman of the Connetquot) sighted a goshawk. They also discovered a rare stand of white cedar on a forgotten aisle of brook. Bob has steadfastly averred that pockets of secret wilderness remain along the Connetquot.

A river-person for half a century, I have known the Hudson of my ancestors, the St. Lawrence of my childhood, and the Schroon of our second home. All these beautiful rivers have been despoiled in varying degrees. Only the Connetquot is "unchanged from what it was when I was young" – or this Island was young.

Access having always been limited, I have been among the fortunate few able to explore intensively, doing volunteer work for the Department of Environmental Conservation or trailing at the heels of expert Long Island naturalists. Every excursion has added at least one cherished memory to my hoard. The most enduring will probably be the episode of the great horned owls.

How the two nestlings came to be orphaned is a mystery. What enemy could have brought down their mighty parent? Howsoever it happened, a foster-parent was found in Carl Helm of the Quogue Wildlife Refuge. He raised them, taking care not to domesticate them in any way, until he judged they were able to fend for themselves. Then he brought them to the Connetquot, one summer day. They were approximately five months old, already huge, chunky, and fierce. Carl moved swiftly when he opened the crates.

For a moment the owlets perched on the top, then off they flew into the trees. Jays and crows uttered the first horrified protest. After that, it was easy for us to follow the newcomers. Every bird in the Connetquot rose or at least sounded an alarm. Long after the owls were lost in the forest, the cries of Canada geese and fish crows on the upper brooks marked the trail of the predator. Literally, the woods resounded.

In all that placidity of river and blossom, it was a moment of primitive confrontation. Something of the birds' panic atavistically imparted itself

to the human beings, and we felt the awe of the wild woods, where our great "sightings" – owl, red-tailed hawk, peregrine – are the enemy.

They were gone at last, absorbed into the Connetquot community. The woods quieted, and the only intruders were in the clearing, where naturalists and photographers gathered their impedimenta and drove away.

226 Dix Hills Road, Huntington Station, New York 11746

NEW MEMBERS

The Federation welcomes the following new members:

New Individual Memberships for 1973

B'Rells, Ann E., 3 Okara Dr., Apt. 8, Schenectady, N.Y. 12303
* McKitrick, Mary, 875 West End Ave., New York, N.Y. 10025
Muir, David G., 101 Rosewood Pl., Liverpool, N.Y. 13088
Siphron, Mr. J.R., 50 E. 72nd. St., New York, N.Y. 10021
Smart, Robert W., Millbrook School, Millbrook, N.Y. 12545

New Individual Members for 1974

* Beehler, Bruce McPherson, Bryant House, Williams College Williamstown, Mass. 01267
Bush, Gregory, 21 Blueberry Lane, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11790
Crowley, Thomas, Box 973, Mattituck, N.Y. 11952
Cutright, Noel J., c/o Texas Instruments, Ulster Landing Rd., Saugerties, N.Y. 12477
Holt, Mrs. Patricia, Box 127, Rt. 13, Cayuta, N.Y. 14824
Mason, Rev. T. Norman, R.D. 1, Westport, N.Y. 12993
Moe, Mrs. Lorimer, 37 Mapleview Ave., Lakewood, N.Y. 14750
Moon, Mrs. Laura W., 25 Edgewater La., Rochester, N.Y. 14617
Nims, Charles W., 13 German Cross Rd., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850
O'Hara, Michael, 349 Bone Plain Rd., Freeville, N.Y. 13068
Perrigo, Mrs. Betty R., 3791 Monroe Ave., Pittsford, N.Y. 14534
Pitzrick, Mrs. Vivian Mills, Amity Lake, Box 61, Rt. 1, Belmont, N.Y. 14813
Roth, Herbert H., 1 Manor Rd., Roslyn Heights, N.Y. 11577

* – Student membership

THE FIRST BREWSTER'S WARBLER BELONGS TO NEW YORK STATE

JOHN B. BELKNAP

Hybridization is a phenomenon which has long intrigued ornithologists. In North America the classic example concerns hybrids of the Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers. A century ago two apparently new species of warblers were described, one by Herrick (1874) and one by Brewster (1874). Both bore a marked resemblance to one of the species mentioned above, the one described by Brewster being more like the Golden-winged Warbler. Although he named it the White-throated Warbler, it soon became "Brewster's", while the bird described by Herrick was given the name Lawrence's Warbler.

The initial issue of the Nuttall Ornithological Club Bulletin (1876) has as its leading article Brewster's description of the warbler which was named for him, together with a frontispiece illustration of the specimen he collected. The article is entitled "Description of a new species of Helminthophaga".

Although hybridism was suspected at an early date it was some time before it could be fully demonstrated that these were not "new" species but resulted from the mating of Golden-winged with Blue-winged Warblers. At the time of the second AOU Checklist (1895), Lawrence's and Brewster's Warblers were given semi-official status, being placed in the Hypothetical List with the notation "supposed to be hybrids".

The type specimen of Lawrence's Warbler was collected in New Jersey and that of Brewster's Warbler in Massachusetts. A much earlier specimen was collected in New York State and has had an interesting history. It proved to be the first Brewster's Warbler ever collected. It was taken by the well known taxidermist John Graham Bell (1812-1889) in Rockland County in the year 1832. The full story of this specimen can be found in a number of publications including Bent's "Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers" and will not be repeated here. Suffice to say that it ended up at the museum of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural History where it long escaped attention. It was brought to light by Dr. Spencer Trotter during the 1870's.

92 Clinton St. Gouverneur, N.Y.

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THE 1974 CONSERVATION PUBLIC HEARING, NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

EDGAR M. REILLY, JR.

The conservation public hearing of the New York State Legislature, held on February 28, 1974, was not as well attended as it has been in previous years. With so much attention directed to our energy problems, perhaps many people gave conservation or environmental laws low priority. The method of holding these hearings was changed somewhat for the better. All organizations' representatives registered before the hearings opened. All those attending the hearing received an agenda and one of the cochairman, Assemblyman Larry Lane, following this, called the roll allowing each organization to make comments as it wished. After this step was completed, individuals and clubs or associations wishing to make a more formal statement about any proposed legislation were free to do so after first filling out a form expressing the desire to be so heard. Bills not on the agenda could also be discussed. The business was completed much more quickly under this system than it had been in previous years under different arrangements.

There is a priority in the order of the roll call which is sensible. First the representatives of governmental agencies spoke; at this hearing these were the Environmental Conservation Department, the Legal Department then the Department of Parks and Recreation. After these had made brief comments as to whether their department did or did not support the bill on the floor, the Conservation Council representative made his comments and the other organizations followed as much in alphabetical order as was possible (many delegates were late in arriving). The Conservation Council, of which the Federation is an associate member, is itself a federation of outdoorsmen, hunters, fishermen and other conservation-minded groups and Federation members will be pleased to note that the Conservation Council voted for all bills our representative supported and were also agreed on the bills we opposed.

It is impossible to canvas all member clubs as to which bills before the State Legislature should be supported or opposed and as your representative I had as guide lines the actions taken at our annual meetings and at meetings of the officers of the Federation. This then is a report of my activities at the hearing. Only those bills which had a bearing

on bird life or its environment were supported or opposed. The first bill in this category concerned Long Island Sound. S(enate) 2875 and A(ssembly) 4329 set up a Long Island Sound Environmental Plan which seemed rather hastily conceived without consideration that such a plan was already in operation. This was brought out at the hearing and we reserved comment as we did on the following bill S7245A, A8304A to establish a temporary State Commission on Long Island Sound.

Under the general heading "Water Pollution" were three bills which we favored since each could have a beneficial effect on bird life if properly implemented. S7560, A8663 set up rules, regulations and prohibitions o nthe underground storage of toxic materials. S1469B, A2018B prohibits the discharge of sewage into certain lakes (everyone supported this but woundered why not all lakes?). S3576 prohibits mercury or mercurial compound discharges into our waters.

The heading "Hunting and Fishing" contained only one bill on which I made comment and that was A8711 which would have set bounties on rattlesnakes in certain counties of New York. The State law prohibits bounties except under certain conditions to be judged by the State Health Department as well as other state agencies and having fought for years against the invidious and wasteful bounty system I opposed this bill. Once exceptions are made then any county could have exceptions made and we might have bounties set on robins or orioles in orchard growing counties or on bobolinks where wheat is grown.

There was a bill S5429, A6575 on Wetlands which we supported. It would give the freshwater wetlands the same sort of protection our saltwater marshes are beginning to get. There will be a new version of this bill before it is finally acted on by the Legislature since the hearing brought some repetitions and anomalies to light. The main organization against any such bill was the New York Farmers group on the basis that marshes and wetlands would make good agricultural lands when drained.

A bill on Environmental Impact was not printed at the time of the hearing but discussion brought out the fact that this would be a codification of State Laws on the subject and would give a great deal consideration to wildlife in general. We supported the concept. Under "Miscellaneous" there was one bill setting up an Erie Canal State Park which would be a considerable interest to birders and other nature-lovers since parts of such a park were planned as nature walks on trails.

One bill was missing from the agenda and was not brought up. Senator Bernard Smith of Long Island, cochairman of the committee on conservation legislation had worked hard to legalize falconry in the state — an enabling law was passed by the 72-73 legislature. The National Audubon Society supported the legalized falconry bill as it was thought such action would encourage such work as is being done at Cornell University by Dr. Tom Cade in raising Peregrine Falcons for eventual

release in the wild and also because seeing falconry in action would make friends for our hawks. I personally feel that the bill should be repealed as it has not been as beneficial as it was hoped and because live traps set to capture hawks for falconry cannot identify species and the personnel assigned to implement the falconry legalization have almost as much trouble with the identification as the traps. If we feel falconry should be prohibited in New York, we will have to gather data so as to convince Senator Smith and others that the bill is not beneficial to anyone but falconers. One of our members, an internationally known expert on hawks, especially falcons and eagles, was refused renewal of his membership in the major U.S. Falconry organization because he pointed out the dangers of legalized falconry and took a public stand against the new federal law. Voices are stifled so that soon the cry of the wild falcon will no longer be heard in the land. The bill introduced by Assemblyman Jerry Solomon which would have made falconry illegal in New York will probably not even be brought up for a vote and if it is, it will be doomed to defeat. We need to convince our legislators with data and other facts – and make our feelings known through letters each to our own representatives in the New York State Legislature.

Perhaps some of you reading this article will have heard of a bill affecting bird life about to be discussed in Albany. Please, if you have thoughts or opinions on such bills, write to: E. M. Reilly, Jr. P.O. Box 21, Old Chatham, New York 12136.

I'll be able to bring some of these up at the hearing in 1975 for general discussion and be better able to take a stand as the Federation representative.

Old Chatham, New York 12136

FIELD NOTES

Possible Suka on Lake Ontario, Monroe Country, New York: While sitting in the parking lot at Hawk Lookout in Braddock Bay State Park, Monroe County, N.Y. at the end of the G.O.S. Field Trip on Sunday, Oct. 7, 1973, at about 11:30 A.M., our attention was drawn to a large, dark bird which was flying toward us from across Braddock Bay. At first glance we thought it might be an immature gull, but immediately rejected that because it didn't look right. While close to the size of a very large hawk, it obviously was not that, although at that point the bird was almost directly overhead and began to circle, soaring like a hawk. Although the day was overcast, the visibility was good. Through our binoculars we could see a very large, uniformly dark, gull-like bird with a very heavy, chunky body, large head and bill, and wedge-shaped tail which was quite short in proportion to the length of the wings. There were no protruding tail feathers. Large white patches at the base of the primaries were conspicuous as the bird circled and banked, several times, beating its wings slowly and ponderously once or twice as it completed half a circle. These circles were made almost overhead.

Both underneath and upper wing surfaces were visible as the bird circled, as was the pronounced bend in the heavy wings. One observer commented at that point that the bird was flying like a hawk, but wasn't. The bird, which had been under observation for at least five minutes, had now set its wings and was gliding across Braddock Bay toward the West Spit.

This gave us a chance to check a bird book since, up to this time, we had not taken our glasses off the bird. All the above points of identification were noted previous to consulting the books. A check of both Peterson and Robbins confirmed Warren Lloyd's and Mary Ann Sunderlin's suspicions that this was a Skua. (See Peterson, "A Field Guide to the Birds," pp 7 and 109; Robbins, "A Guide to Field Identification, Birds of North Amerira," p. 130; Shackleton and Stokes, "Birds of the Atlantic Ocean," pp 97 and 99.)

The only bird in the sky at the time we sighted the Skua was a tree swallow, at which the Skua made a rather half-hearted pass. The size comparison was of a swallow and a black-backed gull. At no time did the wings have the slimmer, more streamlined appearance of the Pomarine Jaeger which we sighted later that afternoon at Manitou.

Although we have never seen a Skua before and bearing in mind that the bird has only been seen once or twice previously in this region, we nevertheless believe this bird seen at Hawk Lookout to be a Skua. Our observations were made through 10x50 Bushnell and 7x35 Fuji binoculars. We have consulted a number of authorities including the above-mentioned sources as well as Pough's "Audubon Guides" and Bruun and Singer's "Birds of Europe", Reilly's "Audubon Handbook of American Birds," and all sources seem to confirm our feelings.

The bird was also seen at Hawk Lookout by Lawrence Littlefield and Marguerite Berry.

Warren Lloyd, 1756 Ridge Rd., Webster, N.Y. 14580
Mary Ann Sunderlin, 505 Bay Rd., Webster, N.Y. 14580

Observations on an Adult Black-legged Kittiwake on Lake Ontario near Oswego, New York: On December 1, 1973 we were observing gulls from a cliff overlooking Lake Ontario about three quarters of a mile east of the city of Oswego. A brisk wind estimated at 25 miles per hour was blowing off the Lake, apparently creating favorable updrafts along the face of the cliff since a large number of gulls were soaring before us. While scanning these birds in hopes of finding a Glaucous or Iceland Gull, a bird with a light gray band on the back of its neck was spotted about thirty yards away at eye level. Careful scrutiny of the bird with 8x40 and 7x35 binoculars indicated that it had a solid black triangle on the tip. gray mantle and a completely white tail. Tail shape was not noted but the bird's small size and slender wings relative to the Ring-billed and Herring Gulls soaring near it were noted. The bird was immediately called to the attention of the members of the Cayuga Bird Club, many of whom obtained a satisfactory view of the bird although it was by this time fifty to seventy five yards away. This report is believed to constitute the first sight record of an adult Black-legged Kittiwake on Lake Ontario although mmatures of this species are rare but regular in occurance in the area and a previous adult specmen record exists.

Douglas P. Kibbe and Elaine C. Kibbe; Laboratory of Ornithology, Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

Common Crows as Commensals of Common Mergansers: On 25 July 1973 I saw 13 Common Mergansers (*Mergus merganser*) feeding together on the Beaverkill River near East Branch, Delaware County, New York. Rushing upstream in short spurts against the current, they drove their quarry into the shallow pools

between the rocks near shore. Simultaneously 4 Common Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) hopped from rock to rock alongside the mergansers, feeding on prey flushed by the mergansers. The crows followed the mergansers for about a half a mile and then flew off. There are few references to commensalism between avian spcies in the literature.

Margaret Coon Bowman, Clinton Corners, New York 12514.

Great Crested Flycatcher Enters Building Twice: Just before noon on August 29, 1972, I was standing with several official visitors in the entrance hall of the military police guard headquarters at Seneca Army Depot, when I heard a scuffling in the ceiling flourescent light fixture. Looking up, I was surprised to see a Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) returning my gaze. The bird wasn't exactly tame, keeping 3 to 6 feet away, but otherwise seemed generally unafraid of the half-dozen men in the hallway. I was able to watch it for over 5 minutes, and observed it feeding on the numerous insects attracted to the lights the night before. SFC Kluges, the Sergeant of the Guard, informed me that the door had been open the previous night and all that morning. He had not noticed the bird before.

The schedule of my visitors forced me to leave and prevented my return until much later that afternoon, but SFC Kluges and some of his men developed an interest in the bird. They reported that it remained inside, alternately feeding and resting, and flew out the door about 1:00 p.m. That would seem to be the end of the incident, but about 2:00 p.m. it was back and feeding again. Clearly, it had found the promised land, a sure concentration of insects on the cool day. It remained a little less than an hour, left, and did not return.

Dr. Frederick C. Dittrich mentioned the nesting of a Great Crested Flycatcher inside an abandoned building, but entering an inhabited building to feed is not mentioned in Bent or any other literature known to me. It certainly seems remarkable for this or virtually any other species.

Maj. Morgan V. Jones, Seneca Army Depot, Romulus, N.Y. 14541

Ash-throated Flycatcher on Long Island, New York: On December 1, 1973, a *Myiarchus* flycatcher with pale breast and belly was discovered by the junior author at Ridge, Long Island, New York. It was observed later that day by the senior author who agreed that the bird was one of the paler western species. It seemed as large as a Great Crested Flycatcher (*M. crinitus*) and the bill appeared completely black. The breast was pale gray shading to near white under the chin. The gray extended partially around the neck forming an indistinct collar separating the brownish head from the olive-gray back. The lower belly was pale yellow. The rufous in the primaries and retrices seemed similar to that of *crinitus*. Compared with illustrations in popular field guides, the bird seemed closer to Wied's Crested Flycatcher (*M. tyrannulus*) than to the Ash-throated Flycatcher (*M. cinerascens*) but no positive identification was attempted.

The bird frequented an area where an extensive overgrown field bordered pine-oak woods and spent much of its time feeding on or near the ground among large dead weeds. It was alert and wary and flew strongly. When disturbed, it flew to the trees but tended to perch low unless alarmed.

The bird was found only once again on several visits during the next few days. Dr. Wesley Lanyon of the American Museum of Natural History was notified and the bird mist-nettd on December 5 after unsuccessful attempts to elicit vocalizations by playing tapes of the calls of four possible species. In the field, Lanyon concurred that the bird most nearly resembled *tyrannulus*. In the hand, however, it was readily identified as *cinerascens* by the tail pattern, i.e. with an expanded fuscous area at the tip of the inner web of the outer retrix. It was also noted that a narrow band of whitish separated the gray of the breast from the

yellow of the belly and that the lower mandible had a small pale area at the base. The mouth lining was flesh colored, paler than in *crinitus*. However, none of these features could be distinguished in the field, even at close range in good light. Identification of North American species of *Myiarchus* is described by Phillips and Lanyon (1970). As Bull (1964) pointed out and our experience confirms, field identification of extralimital individuals of this genus may not always be reliable.

Since continued survival of the bird in the wild was considered improbable and Lanyon had previously maintained members of this group in captivity, the bird was taken to the Kalbfleisch Field Research Station of the American Museum of Natural History and caged with a captive *crinitus* afttr a series of color photographs was taken. However, it died the first night and the skin has been deposited in the Museum collection. The bird was a female in fully adult plumage with completely ossified skull. Wing length was 97 mm. It weighed 21.7 gm whereas a healthy female would weigh from 25 to 28 gm. Muscle mass was smaller than normal, no fat was present and both stomach and intestines were empty. Numerous *Mallophaga* were present throughout the plumage. A partially healed injury was evident beneath the right wing where several primaries had been damaged.

This constitutes the second known occurrance and the first specimen from New York State. The first State record was a bird observed and photographed by Sid Bahrt at Larchmont, November 22-24, 1970 (Boyajian, 1971). Five other records from the northeast are known. Specimens were taken in Maryland November 25, 1911 and November 26, 1957 (Stewart and Robbins, 1958). An immature female was mist netted and collected on Block Island, Rhode Island on September 15, 1960 (Baird. 1962). Other New England records are a bird observed on the Isles of Shoals, Maine, September 17-20, 1971 (Finch, 19727) and one photographed at Gloucester, Massachusetts, November 25-December 3, 1972 (Finch, 1973). Note that five of the seven occurrences took place in late November or early December. Two other December reports of *Myiarchus* on Long Island are knorn (Bull, 1964, 1970) but positive identifications are lacking.

The writers gratefully acknowledge the help of Dr. Lanyon in collecting and identifying this specimen.

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Gilbert S. Raynor, Schultz Road, Manorville, Long Island, New York 11949
John J. Ruscica, Ridge Road Ridge, Lond Island, New York 11961

Request for information and comments: On 8 or 10 occasions in the past four years of hand-feeding chickadees, I've noticed an unusual change in behavior. The birds will suddenly leave off skirmishing for position on my hand and fall into a kind of daze, abstractedly gazing off into one corner of the sky. Usually they do this on a low branch but on at least one occasion while still perched on my

hand. In either case they can be fondled, grasped, tweaked and given a thorough examination (things they will not otherwise tolerate) with nothing more than an eye-blink as response. After 3 or 4 minutes they return, as alert self-possessed and rambunctious as before. Nuthatches and Downy Woodpeckers, when they are around, seem to fall into and out of the spell at the same time. I am satisfied they are not watching a predator, as they seem to act differently in that case. Ornithologists I have contacted have not been able to account for this behavior, but mention that it seems similar to the catatonic state which birds sometimes go into when being handled, as during banding. One suggestion was that it may be a similar metabolic mechanism to cope with extreme cold as has been observed in mice and shrews, but my notes do not seem to bear this out. I would be very interested to learn if other readers of the *Kingbird* have made similar observations.

James Stapleton, 254 So. Ohioville Rd., New Paltz, New York 12561

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WINTER SEASON

Fritz Scheider

December, January, and February produced a mild form of winter but March was a brutal spring with statewide (except Region 9) snow and ice storms and severe freeziing in the latter half of that month. Migration, normally picking up in that period, was essentially squashed and attempted migration, particularly of waterfowl, stalled by the miserable weather. The combination of poor cone and seed crops plus limited gasoline for birding produced large numbers of feeder birding reports and the feeder-dependent half-hardies of the seascon had above average tabulation (q.v.)

The very mild December and January weather probably accounts for the attempted wintering by American Bittern (1,5,6,9) and the above average sprinkling of half-hardy ducks (1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9). A very strong Whistling Swan migration (1,2,3,5 with a stray in 9) was grounded by the severe storms of mid and late March. Redhead and Canvasback presented a mixed bag (no pun intended) with some areas reporting increases, others record lows. Greater Scaup showed reduced numbers where mentioned (1,2,3,5,6). Lake Ontario had a small flight of King Eider (1,2,5) and an array of lingering scoters, as expected mostly White-winged.

Red-tailed Hawk numbers were uniformly increased (1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9) with some areas reporting record Christmas Count tallies; conversely Rough-legged Hawk were quite scarce (1,2,5,6,9) with only Region 3 reporting normal or increased numbers. Ring-necked Pheasant continue to decline in upstate New York (1,5) and the Gray Partridge in the St. Lawrence Valley (6) are still in reduced numbers.

White-winged gulls staged a modest incursion (1,2,5,6,8) with best sites for numbers at the Robert Moses Power Dam on the St. Lawrence

River and at Oswego Harbor on Lake Ontario. The mild winter weather may explain the large numbers of wintering Ring-billed Gull (5,6,8,9); in some cases Ring-billed Gull numbers exceeded the usually more numerous Herring Gull. Little Gull are definitely being observed in greater numbers in the eastern Great Lakes (1,2)-? is this true in the Marine sector also?

Mourning Dove wintered in well above average numbers (1,3,4,5,-7,8,9,), undoubtedly helped by the greater food supply made possible by the mild, snow-poor winter. Snowy Owl were reported in fair numbers in 1 but all other sectors indicated them as reduced or absent.

Red-bellied Woodpecker populations are increasing and/or expanding both upstate (1,2,3,4,5) and in the lower Hudson Valley (9); it will be interesting to see if, when common, this species becomes a "backyard" bird as it is in many areas of the South. Wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1,4,5,8,9) again attest to the mild winter or liberal bird feeders or both. Tufted Titmouse, like Cardinal and Mockingbird before it, has increased and expanded (1,2,3,4,5, even 7 !) but the increase on the eastern Ontario Lakeplain has been quite slow. Red-breasted Nuthatch seemed extraordinarily scarce centrally (3,5,6) but the western (1) and eastern (8, 9) sectors seemed to have fair numbers. Carolina Wren, the most snow susceptible of the southern permanent residents, was reported in increased inumbers (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8) but Region 9 reported reduced winter numbers; it will be of value to determine if the numerous wintering birds made it thru the heavy snow and protracted cold of late March. Golden-crowned Kinglet wintered in above average numbers (1,2,4,5,7,9) but no returning March flight of magnitude was noted. A statewide Northern Shrike irruption (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9) would have had even higher numbers if more gasoline for birding – we have to have the necessities, Mr. Simon – were available.

Cardinal numbers continue to increase (1,3,4,5,6,7) and some Christmas Counts now show impressive tallies; however, no expansion (8) and even decline (9) was noted in the eastern sectors-? beginning of a trend, local variability, non-concentration at feeders because of mild winter weather?

Winter finches were uniformly reported but in highly variable numbers – all sectors had Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, and Common Redpoll in fair numbers but Red Crossbill and White-winged Crossbill were in very low and erratic numbers and extremely diverse periods of occurrence. Purple Finches were present in 1 but scare or absent in all other sectors – this pattern of increased numbers of this species, and to a lesser extent with Snowy Owl and Red-breasted Nuthatch, suggests that western New York may be getting some spillover from a midwestern irruption of these species that central and eastern New York did not feel. Wintering Tree Sparrow seemed much reduced (1,5) in the Ontario

Lakeplain counties but southern and eastern sectors had excellent tallies.

Rarities for the season include Eared Grebe (1,3), White-fronted Goose (1), Harlequin Duck (1,5), Common Eider (2), Common Gallinule (8), Ivory Gull (1), Dovekie (2), Hawk Owl (5,6 – three birds in one winter probably constitutes an irruption for New York State), Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker (4), Varied Thrush (6), Townsend's Solitare (4), Bohemian Waxwing (6), Common Yellowthroat (7), Hoary Redpoll (1,2,7,8,9), European Goldfinch (1), and Dickcissel (7).

No report from Region 10 – what's happening in the Tidewater sector?

114 Rockland Drive, North Syracuse, New York 13212

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

Vivian Mills Pitzrick

"A reasonable amount of fleas is good for a dog," said David Harum. Even so, some bad weather keeps feeder-watches happy. It was another fairly mild winter with a nearly normal December but of no major snowfall. Weather pattern for January and February was a repeat performance: very cold the first half with snow but delightfully spring-like with little ground cover the last and temperature reaching 55° Jan 27th and one degree less Feb 22nd. However, winter kept control with night temperatures dipping well below freezing nearly every night and Lake Erie finally reached 32° Feb 5th. Deceptively, March came in with a week of real spring –60° the 7th – and lakes and ponds south of the snow belt[1] began to open. The Genesee River was mostly unfrozen all winter. The second week of March a succession of exceptionally cold nights slowed the warming trend and the winter, gathering momentum, finally roared out with a 2° below zero the 25th, ice storms in some areas the 29th and considerable snow accumulation by the 31st. (Data from Alfred Coop. Weather Station and WBEN – TV.) Many bird-feeders who had complained over "So few birds!" most of the winter, were saying during that last week of March, "We're going bankrupt!"

Perhaps because of increasing numbers of bird feeders as well as the relatively reasonable winter, "half-hardies", including Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, American Robin, Hermit Thrush and Rusty Blackbird, were reported throughout the season. The Tufted Titmouse broke records by appearing on all eight Christmas Counts for the Region. Further, increased numbers and areas of occurrence of this species through the winter indicates an incursion year for our latitude and possibly a more successful breeding season here.

[1]Snowfall at Buffalo in the "Snow Belt" was over 9 inches above normal this winter.

Of northern species, the Snowy Owl appeared in fair numbers but the finches were scarce until a few showed in February with many reports of White-winged Crossbills. During late February and through March, Common Redpolls were sighted in several areas. All winter, Evening Grosbeaks again returned to the Southern Tier areas in large numbers, but Pine Grosbeaks were very rare.

Whistling Swans held admiring observers spell-bound from the first appearance

of a few in early February, through the sluggish migration the last of that month, and on into the record numbers for Allegany County the last week in March.

Exciting rarities accented our season: Eared Grebe, White-fronted Goose, adult male Harlequin Duck, Ivory Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Pine Warbler, House Finch, European Goldfinch and Hoary Redpoll.

A Bird-banding Report was received, underlining scarcity of northern finches: 794 birds were banded by Don Clark at Farmersville Station, N.Y., January through March this year: 2 Downy Woodpecker, 4 Blue Jay, 22 Black-capped Chickadee, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 1 American Robin (Mar 23), 1 Northern Shrike (Jan 2), 60 Starling, 24 Red-winged Blackbird (from Mar 17 on), 3 Rusty Blackbird (Mar 17, 22 23), 2 Common Grackle (Mar 24. 26), 1 Brown-headed Cowbird (Mar 28), 2 Cardinal, 258 Evening Grosbeak "practicially every day" (116 Jan, 94 Feb, 48 Mar), 1 Purple Finch (Mar 2), 20 American Goldfinch (from Feb 2 on), 15 Dark-eyed Junco, 293 Tree Sparrow (daily, maxima: Jan 34, Feb 109, Mar 150), 84 Song Sparrow (first Mar 11).

Five Winter Bird-Population Studies for Audubon's *American Birds* were conducted in Allegany County this year, one submitted by each of the following: Dan Babcock, Elizabeth Brooks, John Flurschutz, Clarence Klingensmith and Vivian Pitzrick.

Abbreviations: AC—Allegany County; AL—Amity Lake; Alf—Alfred; Bflo—Buffalo; BgS—Burgeson Sanctuary, Frewsburg; Blm—Belmont; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; Cb—Cuba; CC—Christmas Count; Chaut—Chautauqua; Frd—Fredonia; Fr St—Farmersville Station; GI—Grand Island; HEA—Hamburg-East Aurora; INWR—Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; Jms—Jamestown; M—Marsh; mob—many observers; Nia—Niagara; Ont—Ontario; OO—Oak Orchard; OOGMA—Oak Orchard Game Management Area; Sc—Scio; ScAudC—Scio Audubon Census; St Bon—Saint Bonaventure; T/—Township of; TGMA—Tonawanda Game Management Area; WFC—Waterfowl Count, Jan 13–20, WGF—White Game Farm, Alabama.

Contributors: RA—Robert Andrle; DB—Doris Burton; LB—Lou Burton; DC—Donald Clark; JC—Jane Clark; SE—Stephen Eaton; VP—Vivian Pitzrick; RS—Robert Sundell.

Observers: PA—Patrica Andrle; HA—Harold Axtell; RaA—Rachel Axtell; EB—Elizabeth Brooks; TB—Thomas Bourne; DD—Dorothy Danner; FE—Flora Elderkin; CF—Christine Ferrand; WK—Walter Klabunde; HK— Harriette Klabunde; CK—Clarence Klingensmith; RK—Robert eKople; PhK—Rhea Keople; HM—Harold Mitchell; JM—John Morse; AM—Alice McKale; WM Willard McKale; EP—Elizabeth Pillsbury; KP—Katherine Palmer; RP—Raymond Pitzrick; FR—Frances Rew; PS—Peter Schaeffer; JT—Joseph Thill; AV—Allan Valentine; WV—William Vaughn; LW—Larry Wilson; MW—Marie Wendling; MaW—Margaret Wendling; RW—Robert Wagner

LOONS–DUCKS: Common Loon: 2 Dec 1-18 Cb L (RK, RhK); 1, 2, Dec 1, 2 Nia F, Ont (PA, RA, HM, *et al*); 2 Dec 13 Lakewood, Chaut L (RS); 1 Dec. 16 BOSCC; 1 WFC (average); no more until 1 Mar 28 Chaut L (RS). Red-necked Grebe: only 1 Dec 2 Nia F, Ont (Schaffner, Clark). Horned Grebe: 2 to 3 reported most of winter with 2 Dec 16 BOSCC; 1 Dec 29 ACCC; first of migration 2 Mar 5 INWR (JM). One *EARED GREBE* appeared Jan 1 FrdCC. Pied-billed Grebe: 2 Dec 1–18 Cb L (RK, RhK); 2 wintered Dec 15th through Mar 9 Blm (LB, DB, *et al*), 1 picked up, latter part of Mar, on steps of Blm Hotel, photographed and released in Genesee R (LB); 1 Dec 29 ACCC; 2 Jan 1 FrdCC; 7 Dec 16 JmsCC; first migrant 1 Mar 4 INWR (Olsen). Great Blue Heron: 1 to 2 reported all through winter period with Max 8 Dec 29 ScAudC. Black-crowned Night Heron; the only one, Dec 29, appeared on HEACC. Least Bittern: over a month early 1 Mar 22 Dunkirk (Stanley). American Bittern: one must have

tried to winter, seen Jan 2 Belfast (R. Smalley).

Whistling Swan: (see introductory remarks.) 5 Dec 18 Cb L (RK, RhK, *et al*); 214 Dec 6 and 154 Dec 13 Chaut L (RS); 4 Dec 16 St Bon CC; the first of the New Year were 7 Feb 8 Sc(VP) which began the "Year of the Swan" for AC where, out of the snow belt, waters opened unusually early; one stayed Feb 26 through Mar 30 Blm (LB, DB, *et al*); reports increased in the county through March with Max 500+ the 28th (RK, RhK, *et al*); other areas had first one Feb 28 Ft. Erie, Ont (Schwartz) with March maxima: 52 Mar 2 Celeron (FE, RS), 75 Mar 27 OOGMA (DB), 50 Mar 28 BgS (FE), 93 Mar 31 St John (WK, HK), 110 Mar 31 INWR, TGMA (mob). Canada Goose: appeared on two CCs: 184 Dec 27 OOCC and 1 Dec 29 ACCC; up to 160 Feb 22–28 INWR (JM) were probably wintering birds; first of spriny Mar 3 INWR (JM, et al), with peak: "countless" Mar 27 OOGMA (DB) and 1000 Mar 31 Lakeside Pk to St John (L. Ontario shore) (WK, HK). Snow Goose (white): first Mar 10 with 1 to 2 seen through the 20th INWR, OOGMA and TGM areas (Olsen, DD, RW, WM, AM, *et al*); 5 Mar 27 OOGMR (DB, *et al*); (blue) arr 1 Mar 10 TGMA 1 Mar 18 INWR (Olsen); 4 Mar 20 Stafford's P, OOGMA (DD). *WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE*: an individual was sighted Dec 2 INWR (Schrader).

Mallard: on all but one CC, max 854 Dec 16 BOS; 1503 WFC (average). American Black Duck: 761 WFC (low); 294 Dec 16 BOSCC; 175 Dec 16 JmsCC; 29 Dec 29 ACCC; 75 Mar 28–31 Caneadea (LW). Gadwall: 1-17 Dec 2-30 Nia R (HM, *et al*); 49 Dec 16 BOSCC; 4 Jan 1 FrdCC; 15 WFC (average); 1 Feb 22 INWR (JM); 2 Mar 16 BgS (RS, Richardsons, Kibler); 18 Mar 30 INWR (RA). Pintail: 9 Dec 16 BOSCC; 8 WFC (low average); a few scattered through region to Feb 3; first migrants 4 Mar 5 Oakfield (Seamans); peak 2000 Mar 15 INWR (JM). Green-winged Teal: 4 Dec 30 Dufferin I, Ont (Schaffner, Clark, *et al*); 1,late, Jan 24 Forest Lawn Cem, Bflo (Kikta), and 2, early, Mar 10 TGMA (RW, et al); 2 Mar 15 CbL (KP). Blue-winged Teal: 1, a month and a half late, eDc 30 Dufferin I, Ont (RA, *et al*); arr early, 1 Mar 7 TGMA (Rebovich); and 1 Mar 11 INWR (Heck, Fisher); 1 Mar 27 Caneadea (LW); 3 Mar 29 Fillmore (KP); 2 Mar 31 Wellsville (CF). American Wigeon; 52 WFC (average); 3 Dec 16 JmsCC; 87 Dec 16 BOSCC; 3 Dec 29 HEACC; 2 Jan 1 FrdCC; 4 Jan 31 INWR (JM, Olsen); 7 Mar 8, Mar 20, 20 Mar 27 Cb L α M (mob). Northern Shoveler: several arr early. 2 Mar 3 TGMA (Heck, RW); 3 Mar 8 T/Oakfield (Seaman); 4 Mar 10 Wolcottsville Sinks (MW, MaW). Wood Duck: 1 Dec 27 JmsCC; 1 arr early INWR Mar 7 (Heck, RW); 1 to 4 reported through Mar from Fr St, Cb L, INWR and Fillmore. Redhead: 110 WFC (low); 6 Dec 1-18 Cb L where 3 died, frozen in ice (RK, RhK); 20 Dec 16 JmsCC; 47 Dec 16 BOSCC; 2 Jan 1 FrCC; up to 20 appeared through period of Mar 8–31 at Cb L α M (RK,RhK,LBDB, *et al*). Ring-necked Duck: 45 Dec 6 Chaut L (RS); 10 Dec 16 JmsCC; 3 Jan 1 Nia F, Ont (Schaffner, FR, *et al*); first migrant 1 Mar 5 INWR (JM); max for Mar at Cb L, 100 the 24th; 12 Mar 28 Caneadea (KP). Canvasback: 4355 WFC (high average); on two CCs: 10 Dec 16 Jms and 2656 Dec 16 BOS; 9 Mar 10, 18 Fr St (DC,JC); up to 6 Mar 20 to 30 Cb L α M (mob). Greater Scaup 2678 WFC (low). Lesser Scaup: appeared on only 1 CC: 6 Dec 16 BOS; spring arr 3 Mar 25 INWR (JM) and 5 Mar 29 South Park L, Bflo (Kikta); undifferentiated "Scaup" max 400 Mar 16 Cb L α M (RK,RhK, *et al*). Common Goldeneye: 4743 WFC (low average). Buffiehead: 2884 WFC (highest). Oldsquaw: 1401 WFC (high average); 428 Dec 16 BOSCC; no reports until Mar with maxiuma 300 Mar 3 Nia R, Lewiston (WK,HK and 237 Mar 28 Chaut L (RS). *HARLEQUIN DUCK*: 1 adult male Jan 5, 6 Nia F, Ont (HA, *et al*). King Eider: first of migration and for the year 2 Dec 8 Nia F (HM, *et al*); 5 Dec 16 BOSCC; 5 Dec 23 Nia R, Ont(AV); 1 Dec 30 Dufferin I, Ont (Schaffner, Clark); 1 Feb 3 Nia-on-L, Ont (RW); 6 Jan 1 Nia F, Ont (HM,FR, *et al*); 7 WFC (average). White-

winged Scoter: 8 WFC (low). Surf Scoter: 2 WFC (ties for high). Black Scoter: 2 Dec 6 Chaut L (RS); 1 Dec 23 Nia F, Ont (AV); 1 Dec 30 Nia F Gorge (Schaffner, Clark). Ruddy Duck: first and only report 13 Mar 28 Chaut L (RS). Hooded Merganser: 4 WFC (average); first spring report 2 Mar 4 INWR (JM). Common Merganser: 13,355 WFC (high). Red-breasted Merganser: 8 WFC (low); only 2 migrants reported Mar 16–21 AL(RP,VP).

HAWKS – OWLS: Turkey Vulture: arr 1 Mar 17 Arkwright (FR); 1 Mar 20 INWR (Silvernail); 1 Mar 22 Fr St (DC,JC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 11 reported on four of eight CCs; singles reported from 11 areas through season; arr 1 Mar 19 T/A (VP); 1 took turns with a Cooper's Hawk Dec 6 through Mar 31 Blm feeder (LB,DB), almost daily but not at same time. Cooper's Hawk: total 8 on CCs; singles seen in Mar. Red-tailed Hawk: on all CCs, max 59 Dec 27 OOCC; pairs and singles sighted regularly through season, max 4 Dec 24 24 Alf (EB). Red-shouldered Hawk: late: 1 Dec 16 BOSCC; 1 Dec 27 OOCC; 1 Dec 27 INWR (Fisher); 1 Jan 13 Irving (RA, *et al*); 1 early Feb 13 Kickox Rd, Hamburg (TB); first of migration 2 Mar 7 INWR (Olsen); 1 Mar 14 Alf (EB); 2 Mar 30 E Aurora (AV). Rough-legged Hawk: on four CCs: 2 on 00, 1 HFA, 5 AC, 1 Frd; singles in several areas; 3 Jan 13 T/Yates (JT, Reckhow); 2 Jan 25 Alf (CK); 2 Feb 17 Clarence Center (WM, AM); 2, 4 Mar 17, 29 Kent Switch, South Dayton (FR). Marsh Hawk: 1 Dec 16 BOSCC; 1 Dec 29 ScAudC; 5 Dec 29 ACCC; 1 Dec 27 OOCC; singles reported from 9 areas. American Kestrel: appeared on all CCs, max 40 BOSCC and 30 HEACC; a female, whose broken wing was properly set by a veterinarian, has been in care of E. Brooks, Alfred, since mid-November, although otherwise healthy, for unknown reasons the bird permanently incapacitated herself by pecking off the wing just below the shoulder joint.

Ruffed Grouse: max on CCs: 37 Dec 29 ACCC and 10 Dec 29 ScAudC. Ring-necked Pheasant: very scarce: 17 Dec 16 BOSCC; 5 Dec 16 JmsCC; 13 Dec 27 OOCC; 111 Dec 29 HEACC; 4 Dec 29 ACCC; 1 Jan 1 FrdCC. Turkey: very few reported; 3 Dec 16 JmsCC; 6 Dec 29 ScAudC; 29 Dec 29 ACCC.

SPECIAL REPORTS on WILD TURKEY:

(1) A "Preseason Banding Program" for the Wild Turkey has been conducted for the past five years by Dr. Stephen W. Eaton. During the months of August and Septembtr, 1973, this was carried out in four "towns of central Cattaraugus County." There were "banded and released at the trap site 275 turkeys, 56 adult or yearling hens, 5 adult or yearling toms and 214 poults." The study showed that "the average hatching date was the earliest in 5 years, May 29. It was the poorest year for poult production 3.7 poults per hen. . . . "

(2) A "Trap-and-Transfer Program" for the Wild Turkey was carried out in Allegany County during the winter with Bruce Penrod directing the work as wildlife technician with the N.Y. State Dept. of Environmental Conservation. 31 wild birds were taken from State lands in the county fer release in other areas.

American Coot: 12 WFC (average); 40 JmsCC; 10 FrdCC; 8 Jan 2 Dunkirk Harbor (FE,EP); arr 1 Mar 5 INWR (Olsen); 8 Mar 16 Canadaway Crk. Sanctuary (AV); 5 to 8 Mar 5 eo 24 Cb L (RK,RhK, *et al*).

Killdeer: on three CCs: 2 BOS; 4 Jms; 2 AC; a few scattered reports until general arr first week Mar. American Woodcock: appeared early in most areas; first of season 1 Mar 3 N. Davis Rd, Elma (Kikta). Common Snipe: 6 Dec 16 JmsCC; arr early 1 Mar 9 Wolcottsville (Rebovich); another 1 early Mar 13 TGMA (JM); 1 Mar 17 Cherry Creek (FR); 4 Mar 29 Blm (LB,DB). Greater Yellowlegs: only report 1 Mar 29 Blm (LB,DB), first of migration. Pectoral Sand-

piper: only sighting and first of season 2 Mar 28 Frewsburg (FE). Purple Sandpiper: a very late individual Jan 13 Dunkirk Harbor (Benton, *et al*).

Glaucous Gull: 1 Dec 2 Nia F, Ont, max 9 Dec 30 Goat I, Ont (Schaffner, Clark). Iceland Gull: 1-3 Dec 2, 23, 30 Nia F, Ont (PS, Clark, AV); singles Jan 1 Nia F, Ont (HM, *et al*) and Beck Power Plant, Ont (FR); 3 Jan 3, 5 Nia R (HA,RaA,*et al*); individuals Nia F, Ont, Feb 3 (RW) and Mar 20 (Bourne); 1 Mar 17 Ft Erie, Ont (RW,*et al*). Great Black-backed Gull: 49 Dec 16 BOSCC; 4 Dec 29 HEACC; 17 Jan 1 FrdCC. Herring Gull: max 7870 Dec BOSCC. Ring-billed Gull: max 6650 Jan 1 FrdCC. Bonaparte's Gull: max 300, 325 Jan 2, 25 Dunkirk Harbor (FE,EP,FR); 1 arr Mar 10 Sc (RP,VP). Little Gull: 5 Jan 1 FrdCC; 2 Dec 3 Nia F, Ont (RA,*et al*); 1–5 reported Jan 1–14 Dunkirk Harbor (mob); 1 over a month late Feb 24 Lewiston (WM,AM). *IVORY GULL*: An imm found Jan 29 at Dufferin I outlet, Nia R, Nia F, Ont (William Vaughan) was observed and photographed Jan 31 (WV,*et al*) and again sighted Jan 31 at Buckhorn I State Pk, GI (William Birch); the only prior report for the area was Feb 10, 1934 (WC); one of this northern species has also been seen this winter at London, Ont, and another at Oshawa, Ont (mob). *BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE*: one appeared Dec 30 Nia F, Ont (RA,*et al*). Common Tern: last – 1 Dec 2 Nia F (HM,*et al*).

Mourning Dove; reported all winter; on all CCs: 397 Dec 29 HEA, 168 Dec 16 BOS, 131 Dec 29 ScAudC, 105 Dec 29 AC, 80 Dec 27 00, 52 Jan 1 Frd, 33 Dec 16 Jms, 4 Dec 16 StBon. Screech Owl: 5 Dec 16 JmsCC; 4 Dec 16 BOSCC; 1 Dec 27 OOCC; 1 Dec 29 HEACC; 1 Dei 29 ACCC; 1 Jan 2,3 Fr St (DC,JC). Great Horned Owl. widely reported; nesting pairs: Mar 10 T/Aurora (Patterson, AV), early Apr Blm (N. Ives, B. Jordan, *et al*). Snowy Owl: a good year (see introductory remarks): arr 1 Dec 11 Holley (Smith); 1 Dec 16 JmsCC, 1 Dec 16 BOSCC, 1 Dec 27 OOCC, 1 –an 1 FrdCC; 1 Jan 18 Alma (D. Fantons); 1 Jan 23,26 WGF (JM,Rebovich); 1 Feb 5 Allegany (LB,DR, SE): field mice formed most of the diet for this Snowy Owl; it also ate a previously unobserved Saw-whet Owl; (SE). other Snowy sightings: 1 Feb 22 WGF (JM); 2 Mar 11 Bflo Harbor (RA); 1 Mar 15 Bflo Harbor (FR); 1 Mar 27 Lakewood (RS,Moe, Lennas). Barred Owl: 1 Dec 27 OOCC, 1 Dec 29 ACCC, 1 Dec 29 HEACC; 112 Dec 2-24 AL (RP,VP); 1 Jan 22 T/Hamburg (TB). Long-eared Owl: 2 Mar 16 Bg S(RS,*et al*); 1 (dead) Mar 18 Olean(SE, *et al*). Short-eared Owl: 5 Dec 16 BOSCC; 5 Dec 8 GI (HM, *et al*); 1 Jan 1 GI (FR); 1 Jan 3-9 Rose Hill Rd, Ont(HA,RaA); 6 Jan 13/Pendleton(WM,AM); 1 Jan 14 Ft Erie, Ont (Sommerville); 1 Jan 19 INWR (Heck); 1 Mar 24 OO(RW); 1 Mar 29 S Dayton (FR). Saw-whet Owl: 1 Dec 16 JmsCC; 1 in early Feb eaten by Snowy Owl, Allegany(SE); 1 Mar 21 Rose Hill Rd, Ont(HA,RaA).

GOATSUCKERS–STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: a few wintered on open streams. Common Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker and Downy Woodpecker: reported in good numbers all winter. Pileated Woodpecker: 8 Dec 29 ACCC, 3 Dec 29 ScAndC, 2 Dec 16 JmsCC, 1 Dec 16 StBonCC, 1 Dec 20 HEACC; 1 Dec 8 Alf (CK); 2 Feb 19 INWR(Olsen); 1 Mar 10 Sc(VP); 1 Mar 28 Caneadea (LW). Red-bellied Woodpecker: 16 Dec 29 ACCC, 7 OOCC, 2 Dec 29 HEACC; 1 to 2 were sighted in eight areas through the season. Red-headed Woodpecker: scarce during winter: 2 Dec 16 BOSCC; 1 Dec 29 ACCC; 2 Jan 3 Nia on the L. Ont (HA, RaA); 1 Jan 19,20 Beaver I State Pk (JT,WM,AM). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: four reports of singles: Dec 16 BOSCC, Jan 1 FrdCC, Dec 29 HEACC, and Jan 9 Forest Lawn Cemetery, Bflo(Kikta). Eastern Phoebe: first of migration 2 Feb 21 AL (Hampton). Horned Lark: highs for the period: 50 Jan 1 FrdCC, 35 Dec 16 BOSCC; 85,52 Feb 10 Cambria, Wilson(WM,AM); 35,30 Jan 6,16 Alf(CK). Tree Swallow: first lone bird arr Mar 31 Shadigee(WK,HK). Blue Jay: max on CCs:

702 Dec 29 ACCC. Common Crow: max 1090 Dec 29 ACCC; several flocks at Scio from 300–500 each, Jan 12–31, and one of 583 Feb 8, counted mornings flying down Genesee R from Wellsville area roost.(VP)

Black-capped Chickadee: highs: 930 Dec 29 ACCC, 836 Dec 29 HEACC. Tufted Titmouse: a record year: (see introductory remarks) reported on all CCs: 44 Dec 29 ACCC, 33 Dec 29 HEACC, 30 Dec 16 JmsCC, 17 Dec 16 StBonCC, 12 Jan 1 FrdCC, 6 Dec 16 BOSCC, 4 Dec 29 ScAudC, 2 Dec 27 OOCC; other appearances: 1 Dec 1-7 Fillmore(LW); 1-2 Dec 1-Mar 31 Spring Brook (feeder) (DD); 1 Jan 4 Bentley Sanctuary (Beal); 1 Jan 4 Hamburg(TB); 1 Jan 6-31 Athol Springs (feeder) (Csont); 2 Mar 16 Canadaway Cr Sanctuary (FR,AV); 1,2 Mar 24,28 Northrup Rd, Elma(Kikta). White-breasted Nuthatch: max on CCs: 254 Dec 29 ACCC, 143 Dec 16 JmsCC, 143 Dec 29 HEACC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 35 Dec 29 HEACC, 10 Dec 29 ACCC, 6 Dec 16 JmsCC, 2 Jan 1 FrdCC, 1 Dec 16 BOSCC; 1 to 3 individuals were reported throughout winter from Alfred, Amherst, Belmont, Hamburg, Houghton, Jamestown, Lewiston, Little Genesee and Orchard Park, Brown Creeper: max on CCs: 18 Dec 29 HEACC, 14 Dec 16 BOSCC, 12 Dec 16 JmsCC; 1–4 reported regularly through winter from most areas of AC. Winter Wren: 2 Dec 16 BOSCC, 1 Dec 16 JmsCC, 2 Dec 29 ScAudC, 2 Dec 29 ACCC, 1 Jan 1 FrdCC; 2 Dec 2 Dufferin I, Ont (HM,*et al*); 1 Jan 26 Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburgh(TB); 1 Mar 2 Filmore(LW). Carolina Wren: a good winter: 5 Dec 29 ACCC, 2 Dec 29 ScAudC, 2 Dec 16 BOSCC, 1 Dec 16 JmsCC, 1 Dec 29 HEACC, 1 Jan 1 FrdCC; also: 1 Dec 4–21, Jan 1–31 Blm (Smalley); 1 Dec 1–7, Feb 17,18, Mar 6–24 Spring Brook(DD); 1 Jan 5–14 Athol Springs (Csont); 1 Feb 12 Fillmore (LW; 1 Mar 14 stow(RS). Mockingbird: 2 Dec 16 BOSCC, 1 Dtc 16 JmsCC, 2 Dec 29 HEACC; singles reported from six scattered areas.

American Robin: scattered individuals and small groups wintered, increasing from 5 Mar 3 Fillmore(LW) until max, also at Fillmore, 175 Mar 20(LW). Hermit Thrush: none on CCs; singles Jan Nia on the L,Ont(HA,RaA), and Jan 11 GI (FR). Eastern Bluebird: 5 apparently wintered, seen Jan 8 INWR (Heck, Olsen); one to six were seen Feb 22,26,289 INWR (Olsen, Heck,*et al*) and from then on appeared in small numbers throughout region. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 77 Dec 29 HEACC, 62 Dec 29 ScAudC, 45 Dec 29 ACCC, 35 Dec 16 BOSCC, 21 Dec 16 JmsCC, 17 Jan 1 FrdCC, 3 Dec 27 OOCC; reported from all areas through season in AC (mob) with max 25 Mar 14 Alf(EB), "a good winter for them" in Cattaraugus Co(SE). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: only one individual (late) Dec 1 Alf(CK). Water Pipit: first, 3 Mar 25 INWR (JM); 2 Mar 29 Stockton FR); 2 Mar 28 Fillmore(KP). Cedar Waxwing: max onCCs: 384 HEACC; very small numbers reported all season except for: 140 Dec 29 E Aurora(HM), up to 135 Jan 15–28 Jms(RS), 35 Mar 10 Jms(RS), and 20 Mar 5,19 Alf(CK). Northern Shrike: regular reports of 1 to 5 through season; max on CCs: 8 Dec 16 BOSCC. Loggerhead Shrike: one very early, Feb 12,14 Cheektowaka (Off,Stein); first of migration, 1 Mar 29 Langford (FR); 1 Mar 31 OO(Wilcove, Goodman). Starling: max 44,443 Dec 16 BOSCC.

VIREOS-SPARROWS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: one on Dec 29 HEACC, and first of season: 1 Feb 13 N Creek Rd, Eden(TB). A very early Pine Warbler Jan 1 Chippewa,Ont(FR). American Redstart: addendum for summer, a late individual Oct 28 T/Hume(Moores). House Sparrow: max 2912 Dec 29 HEACC. Eastern Meadowlark: on only two CCs: 7 Dec 27 OOCC, 2 Dec 29 ScAndC; very few for winter: 6 Dec 11T/Amity(LB,DB3, 7 Dec Clarence Center (WM,AM), 1 Jan 18 Wiscoy(M. Pitzrick), 4 Jan 18 Fillmore(KP), 1,2 Jan 24,26 INWR (JM,Rebovich);- 1 Mar 5 N Davis Rd,Elma(Kikta). Red-winged Blackbird: max on CCs: 52 Dec 27 OOCC; a few individuals wintered, spring migration

began late Feb with 50 Feb 28 Blm(LB,DB), max 1200 Mar 19 Sc-Blm Rd(VP). Rusty Blackbird: 43 Dec 29 ACCC, 1 Dec 29 ScAudC; 1 Dec 2 INWR(RW); 1 Dec 9 Blm(Smith); 1 Dec 19,20 Blm(LB,DB); 1 Dec 28 Spring Brook(DD); 1 Jan 1,2 Rose Hill Rd,Ont (HA,RaA); 1 Jan 24D26 and Feb 2,10,11 Blm(LB,DB); arr– 6 Mar 21 Blm(LB,DB); 1 Mar 25 Rost Hill Rd,Ont(HA, RaA); 1 Mar 30 AL(RP,VP). Common Grackle: a few individuals scattered through region for winter period; max 16 Dec 29 HEACC; arr– 1–2 Mar 3 Williamsville, INWR, Ft Erie,Ont(HM,et al). Brown-headed Cowbird: small numbers appeared throughout winter; highs; 147 Dec 16 BOSCC, 109 Dec 29 ACCC, 65 27 OOCC.

Cardinal: winter feeders continue to encourage this species in our latitude: 169 Dec 16 BOSCC; 42 Dec 16 StBonCC; 248 Dec 16 JmsCC; 352 Dec 29 HEACC; 46 Dec 27 OOCC; 67 Jan 1 FrdCC; 344 Dec 29 ACCC; 84 Dec 29 ScAudC. Evening Grosbeak: flocks reported throughout period, max 250 Jan 6 Cb L area (RK,RhK); on all CCs: 1464 Dec 29 ACCC, 876 Dec 29 HEACC, 858 Dec 16 JmsCC, 403 Dec 29 ScAudC, 138 Jan 1 FrdCC, 91 Dec 16 StBonCC, 27 Dec 27 OOCC, 1 Dec 16 BOSCC. Purple Finch: 2 to 11 on all CCs except highs: 52 Dec 29 HEACC and 42 Dec 29 ACCC; 1 to 6 appeared at feeders through the winter. Pine Grosbeak: a low, low year: 3 Dec 29 ACCC; 1 Dec 29 ScAudC; 2 Jan 28 Hamburg(TB). *HOUSE FINCH*: 1 Jan 1-3 Athol Springs (Csont); up to 30 at Amherst Jan 1-31 and again Mar 1-31 at Eggertsville (Ward). *EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH*: one at feeder Mar 1-31 Orchard Park(HM,Kidder). *HOARY REDPOLL*: one Mar 5-31 Lewiston(WK,HK). Common Redpoll: on only two CCs: 15 Dec 29 HEACC, 5 Dec 29 ACCC; 8 Dec 29 E Aurora (HM); 1 Jan 15 Alf(CK); 1 Jan 19 and 38 (banded) Feb 19-28 E Aurora (AV); 1 Feb 21-23 Blm (LB,DB,*et al*); 3 Feb 22 Cb (RK,RhK); more sightings in March, max 50 Mar 25 Fletcher Chapel Rd, Shelby (Olsen,JM). Pine Siskin: CCs low: 2 Dec 29 ScAudC, 27 Dec 16 JmsCC, 6 Dec 29 HEACC; 1,2,1 Feb 2,3,9 E Aurora (AV); 2-5 Mar 1-31 Blm(LB,DB,Casterline); 2 Mar 24 Jms (RS); 1 Mar 30 Orchard Park (AV,Kidder). American Goldfinch: max on CCs: 314 Dec 29 ACCC, 288 Dec 29 HEACC, 222 Dec 16 JmsCC; singles and small flocks, max 82, reported all winter from most areas. Red Crossbill: on one CC: 2 Dec 29 ScAudC; 1,3 appeared Dec 24,25 7 Aurora feeder(AV), 2 Jan 1 E Aurora(AV) and 1 Jan 5 Jms(RS) with no more reported. White-winged Crossbill: 2 Dec 16 BOSCC and 1 Dec 27 OOCC; small numbers, max 7 Jan 23-31 Blm feeder (Casterline, LB,DB,et al), reported regularly in AC from Jan 23 to end of period, including one injured in Feb and accepted as star boarder at Fillmore(KP); singles at feeders Jan 23-27 TGMA (Rebovich) and Jan 23-31 Lyndonville (Smiths); 2 Jan 26 Fr St (VP); 3 Feb 2 Lakewood (feeder) (RS); singles also at feeders Feb 3 Hamburg (TB) and Feb 9 Lyndonville (Smiths). Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 Dec 16 JmsCC, 3 Dec 29 ACCC, 2 Dec 29 HEACC, 1 Jan 1 FrdCC; at feeders: 1 Dec 24-Feb 28 Lyndonville (Smith), Jan 1-10 Athol Springs (Csont), 1 Jan 17 Hamburg (TB), and 1 Mar 1–31 Orchard Park (Saville).

Savannah Sparrow: arr four days early 1 Mar 22 Beaver Meadow (Bigelow); 1 Mar 30 Alf (CK). Dark-eyed Junco: high on CCs: 105 Dec 16 BOSCC; 149 Dec 16 StDonCC; 409 Dec 16 JmsCC; 39 Dec 27 OOCC; 87 ScAudC; 87 ScAudC; 589 Dec 29 ACCC; 561 Dec 29 HEACC; 123 Jan 1 FrdCC. Tree Sparrow: 901 Dec 16 BOSCC; 236 Dec 16 StBonCC; 547 Dec 16 JmsCC; 219 Dec 27 OOCC; 951 Dec 29 ACCC; 165 Dec 29 ScAudC; 460 Dec 29 HEACC; 478 Jan 1 FrdCC; in AC at Alfred, very small numbers this winter (CK; other areas flocks about average except highs at Cb L (100+) and AL (68) (RK,RhK,VP). Chipping Sparrow: on one Christmas Count: 2 Dec 29 (HEACC). Field Sparrow: more reported than usual: 8 16 JmsCC; 1 Dec 29 ACCC; 7 Dec 29 ScAudC; 8 Dec 29 HEACC; 2 Jan 1 FrdCC; in the field at Sc: max 9 Jan 14 and 3, 9 (VP); at feeders 1 Hamburg (T) and 1 Mar 1–31 Orchard Park (Saville). White-crowned Sparrow:

low numbers reported from few areas; on 5 CCs max 14 Jan 1 FrdCC; singles appeared Jan 1, 9–11 Rise Hill Rd, Ont (feeder) HA,RaA) and Mar 17–31 Fillmore (LW). White-throated Sparrow: 32 BOSCC; 1 Dec 16 StBonCC; 24 Dec 16 JmsCC; 43 Dec 29 ACCC; 8 Dec 29 ScAudC; 75 Dec 29 HEACC; small numbers wintered in most areas with max 20 Jan 1-16 Rose Hill Rd, Ont (feeder) (HA,RaA). Fox Sparrow: first of season 1 Mar 17 Fillmore (LW; singles Mar 26w30 Blm (LB, DB); Mar 26 Blm (Jordan) and Mar 28 Alf (CK). Swamp Sparrow: on one CC: 9 Dec 16 JmsCC and a single in the field Feb 8, 9 Sc(VP). Song Sparrow on eight CCs: 97 Dec 29 ACCC and 46 Dec 16 JmsCC. Lapland Longspur: 1 Jan 1 FrdCC and 2 Dec 29 ACCC; 4 Jan 14 Sc (VP); 55 Feb 10 T/Porter (WM,AM); 1 Feb 13 Hickox Rd, Eden (TB); 10 Mar 26 Posson Rd, Shelby (Olsen) Snow Bunting: 1 Dec 16 BOSCC; 2 Dec 16 JmsCC; 120 Dec 27 OOCC; 561 Dec 29 ACCC; 98 Jan 1 FrdCC very small numbers appeared in Southern Tier section of the region with max 100 Cb area Mar 5 (RK,RhK), 50 Jan 18 Fillmore (KP), and 30 Feb 24 Alf(CK); northern counties reported at least five flocks of between 225 and 500 with max 500 Jan 13 Olcott to Lyndonville (JT, Reckhow) and 500 Mar 25 Posson Rd, Shelby (Olsen, JM).

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Spring reports due June 3. Summer reports due Sept 3.
Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

THOMAS E. TETLOW

Weather-wise, Rochester experienced a very uneventful season. With the exception of late March, the remainder of the period was average or slightly above in temperature

Snowfall throughout the period was about average, but like last year, the mild temperature prevented any accumulation.

Rarities include: Common Eider, King Eider, Bald Eagle, Virginia Rail, Red Phalarope, Little Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Dovekie, Hoary Redpoll.

ABBREVIATIONS: BB–Braddocks Bay; ELS–East Lake Shore; GS–Genesee River; HAM–Hamlin; HBSP–Hamlin Beach State Park; IROND–Irondequoit; IB–Irondequoit Bay; IBO–Irondequoit Bal Outlet; LLCC–Little Lakes Christmas Count; LIV–Livonia; RCC–Rochester Christmas Count; WEB–Webster; WJ–Webster Park; WLS–West Lake Shore.

OBSERVERS: RA–Robert Ambrose; J&JC–John and Joyce Connor; KD–Kay Doris; WH–William Hartranft; AK–Allen Kemnitzer; WCL–Walter Listman; JM–J. Madden; PM–Peg Magee; N&LM–Neil and Laura Moon; NP–Neil Prosser; RR–Ruth Reid; JS–Jean Skelly; AS–Ann Stear; DT–Dave Tremmel; R&SO–Richard and Steve O'Hara; GOS–Genesee Ornithological Society; MOB– Many Observers.

LOONS–DUCKS: Most diving ducks were reported in small numbers throughout the period, although some observers reported excellent numbers of Oldsquaws

and White-winged Scoters. Puddle ducks were widely dispersed because of the mild weather, but counts on the Christmas census would indicate a fairly good winter population. The mild days of early March produced several flights of Canada Geese, along with good numbers of all the expected puddle ducks.

Red-throated Loon: 1 Dec 2 WP (AK); 1 Dec 29 IBO (AK); 1 Dec 6-26 WLS (MOB). Great Blue Heron was reported throughout the period—max numbers were 3 Dec 8 Cranberry Pond (N Henderson); 3 Jan 6 IB (MOB). Green Heron: 1 Mar 22 IB (RA)—this bird was approx 3 weeks early for our area. Whistling Swan: single birds were reported in early Mar and by mid-month they were reported in near record numbers; a total count of 61 Mar 23 WLS (GOS) was very high for the lake shore, and the numbers reported in the Genesee River flats in the Avon area were reported as high as 200. Snow Goose: only 2 reports of this uncommon spring migrant in our area—4 Mar 16 IBO (AK); 1 Mar 31 HBSP (RA). Blue-winged Teal: 1-2 Mar 7—10 BB (JS et al) an early report for our area. Wood Duck: single birds were reported throughout the period—max 2 RCC Dec 16. Ring-necked Duck; reported in average numbers, but a single group of 87 on Sodus Bay Mar 14 (KD, PM, AS) is a very good single group count. Redheads were very scarce, but Canvasbacks made one of their best showings in recent years with at least 150 present on BB throughout the second half of Mar. Greater Scaup reported in low numbers throughout period. Oldsquaws: max 1000 Dec 27 ELS (WCL). *COMMON EIDER*: 1 Jan 1, 3, 5, 6 WLS (P Weld et al). *KING EIDER*: female 1 Dec 23 IB (AK); female 1 Dec 27 WLS (WCL); imm male 1 Jan 5, 6 IB (AK, WCL); imm male 1 Jan 6, 12, 13, 14 WLS (AK, WCL et al); imm male 1 Feb 27 IBO (J McNett); imm male 1 Mar 16 IBO (Coffee's, AK, M, A, Sunderlin). Surf and Black Scoter were both reported in low numbers. Ruddy Duck: 1 Jan 24, 26 GR (—&JC). Hooded Merganser: 1 Jan 24, 26 BB (M Carlson et al); 35 Mar 14 Sodus Bay (KD, PM, AS). Common and Red-breasted Mergansers were reported in normal numbers throughout period.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture was a little later than usual with the first birds not being reported until Mar 24. Goshawk: 1 Dec 8 WLS (J&JC); 1 Feb 14 Liv (JM); 1 Feb 19 Liv(JM); 1 Feb 23 Leroy (T Adamson); 1 Dec 27 BB (NP); there were numerous reports in March, but the outstanding number was a max of 24 Mar 23 BB ,GOS); it is interesting to note that although Goshawks were reported infrequently in the Dec thru Feb period, J Czech, who carries out a banding operation at his home in Webster, had at least 46 sightings of what he considers were at least 24 individual birds; he managed to band at least 4 birds. Sharp-shinned Hark: 3 Dec 30 LLCC; 1 Dec 16 RCC; 1 Dec 4, 6 WEB (J Czech); 1 Feb 4 Liv (JM); 1 Feb 10 Liv (JM); 1 Feb 10 IB (R&SO); 1 Feb 10 HBSP (R&SO); several reports of migrants in Mar. Cooper's Hawk: 6 reports in Dec; 5 reports in Jan; 1 report in Feb; in contrast to the before mentioned birds, most of these were inland reports. Red-tailed Hawk: present in good numbers throughout period. Red-shouldered Hawk; max 29 Mar 23 BB (GOS). Rough-legged Hawk: 2 reports on each of the Dec Christmas counts; 1 Jan 20 HAM (AK); 1 Jan 19 Greece (J&JC); 10 Feb 28 BB (J Claffey), this was our first hawk flight of the season. *BALD EAGLE*: our local birds were unreported during the period and our first and only migrant to be reported was a single adult seen Mar 23 BB (AK). Marsh Hawk, along with the Kestrel, were reported throughout the period in normal numbers. Ruffed Grouse: 4 Dec 30 LLCC; 1 an 13 Scottsville (B Molyneaux, R Reid) — first report in several years from this previously occupied area; 1 Jan 13 Sodus (WH, W Lloyd). Ring-necked Pheasant: winter survival seemed very good in our area. *VIRGINIA RAIL*: 2 Jan 18 IROND (E&M Barnitz); 1 aJn 19 IROND (M Ehlers, N&LM,

D); what is presumed to be the same bird was last seen on Feb 24 by the same observers. Single Killdeer was seen throughout the period, but a total of 10 Dec 16 RCC was a new high for our area. First prize for early American Woodcock went to (R Dobson), he had 1 Mar 5 WEB; second prize – 2 Mar 6 Palymra (WH). Dunlin: 2 Dec 9 BB (WCL); 1 Jan 3 BB (M Carlson et al). Sanderling: 1 Dec 8, 9 BB (WCL). *RED PHALAROPE*: 1 Dec 1 WP (AK); 1 Dec 9 BB (WCL). Pomarine Jaeger: 1 Dec 16 BB (WCL). Glaucous Gull: Dec – 4 reports – max 4 Dec 31 IBO (WCL, AK); Jan – 1 report – max 1 Jan 5 IBO (AK); Feb – 2 reports – max 5 Feb 16 IBO (AK, R Hill); Mar – 8 reports – max 4 Lake Shore (MOB). Iceland Gull: Dec – 2 reports – 1 bird ea-IB; Jan – 2 reports – 1 bird ea-IB; Feb – 1 report – 1 bird-IB; Mar – 3 reports – 1 bird ea-IB, BB, Kendall. Great Black-backed, Herring and Ring-billed Gull were present in normal numbers. Bonaparte's Gull: present in all months but Feb with at least 7 birds still present along the lake shore during the second half of Jan. *LITTLE GULL*: 10 Dec 1 IBO (AK, WCL), this is a new high for our area; 5 Dec 8 IBO (AK, WCL); 8 Dec 9 IBO (AK, WCL); 2 Dec 22 (WCL); 2 Dec 31 IBO (WCL); unreported throughout remainder of period. *BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE*: 1 Jan 24 Charlotte (F. Scheider, J. Connor). *DOVEKIE*: 1 Dec 23 IBO (AK), this bird was last reported in Nov 1965. Screech and Great Horned Owls reported throughout period in normal numbers. Snowy Owl: a single bird was present at BB Feb 9, 10, 28 (MOB); and another (believed to be the same bird) was seen on IB Mar 2, 3 (MOB). Barred Owl: 1 Dec 30 LLCC. Long-eared Owl: 1 Dec 8 HBSP (J Burr, R Clark). Short-eared Owl: 3 Dec 18 Lima (J&A Foster); 1 Jan 5 BB (P Weld) 4 Jan 12 Lima (J&A Foster); 19 Feb 10 Avon (J&JC); 2 Mar 16 Leroy (RA); 9 Mar 25 Avon (J&A Foster). Saw-whet Owl: 1 Mar 23 Greece (NM).

GOATSUCKERS–STARLINGS: Belted Kingfisher: single birds reported throughout period, max 2 Feb 16 IB (AK). All woodpeckers reported in good numbers; Red-bellied Woodpecker reached a new high on the RCC with a total of 14 birds reported; the LLCC produced 13. Eastern Phoebe: 1 Mar 20 Clarkson (W Symonds). Tree Swallow: 1 Mar 7 Greece (B Molyneaux, RR, JS). Tufted Titmouse: this bird seems to be still on the increase in the Rochester area with a new high of 75 reported on the RCC; in contrast is the report of only 4 birds inland on the LLCC. Carolina Wren and Mockingbird were reported frequently from the lake shore area with the latter being by far the most common. Gray Catbird: 1 Feb 28 WEB (J McNett). Eastern Bluebird: no lake shore reports and only 1 Rochester area report – 5 birds Dec 14-21 Perinton (N Brennan) – while the LLCC produced 16 individuals. Northern Shrike: present in good numbers throughout area. one of the few bad features of the winter season was the increase in the number of Starlings on the RCC, G Leubner, compiler, tallied a total of 18,410, an increase of over 10,000 from the previous year.

VIREOS–WARBLERS: Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's): 1 Jan 19-24 Pittsford (MOB), first report for this obsolete species in our area.

BLACKBIRDS–SPARROWS: Common Grackle: max 20 Dec 1-31 Fairport (G Jones), this is a high count for this often missed winter straggler. Rusty Blackbird: first report – 10 Mar 6 WEB (AK), reported in low numbers throughout remainder of period. Evening Grosbeak: numerous reports of small numbers, max number seen during period was 25 Jan 26 Liv (JM). Purple Finch: only 4 reports in the immediate Rochester area, but the LLCC produced no less than 18. No reports of Pine Grosbeaks. *HOARY REDPOLL*: 1 Feb 23 Pittsford (G Meade et al); 1 Mar, 2 3 IROND (DT); 1 Mar 30, 31 IROND (DT); 1 Mar 26 Pittsford (NM); 1 Mar 29 IROND (LM). Common Redpoll: first reported in mid-Jan, thereafter in increasing numbers with max numbers seen in late March; 125 Mar

20 Parma (NP); 150 Mar 25 (B Molyneaux, JS). Pine Siskin: reported throughout period in very low numbers. Red Crossbill: unreported. Whitt-winged Crossbill: reported Jan thru Mar, max number seen – 10 Jan 26 IROND (M Ehlers, DT). Rufous-sided Towhee: several reports of single birds throughout period. Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco; 1 Dec 21 Perinton (D Sherony); 1 Mar 18 – 24 Penfield (G Davis). Chipping Sparrow: 1 Feb 3 Roch (RO). White-crowned Sparrow: 2 birds throughout period in Clarkson (R Clark, W Symonds); 1 Dec 28 IROND (P Zachman); 2 Jan 1 – Feb 28 Lima (J&A Foster). White-throated Sparrow: numerous reports throughout period. Lapland Longspur: several reports of 1 – 4 birds, max 75 Jan 12 Ham (J Claffey); 8 Mar 28 Parma (E Vollmer). Snow Bunting: with only the noted exceptions, this bird was also reported in low numbers throughout the period, max nlmbers 200 Jan 20 Greece (JS); 2 groups of 500 Mar 30 Lima (J&A Foster).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. Benning

The period was generally mild with little snow. The coldest temperatures and heaviest snow were in mid-December. January was mild with a prolonged thaw the last 10 days of the month. With temperatures in the fifties, ducks and geese moved into MNWR from Cayuga Lake until colder weather in early February refroze the marshes. Late February and early March gave promise of an early spring. A 60 degree temperature with a strong southwest wind brought geese and ducks streaming into MNWR on February 22 with "blackbirds" following soon afterwards. But winter did not give up easily. From March 10 to the end of the period cold weather with some snow prevailed.

The gas shortage had its effect on birding. Observers made fewer trips to outlying areas and concentrated on home grounds. We regret that we did not receive the winter report from the Elmira ara. Our two correspondents in the Bath area will be moving out of State. We need one or more observers to cover the Steuben County area.

Monk Parakeets appeared again in Schuyler County. Encouraging was the rise in numbers of Redhead and Canvasback ducks on the WFC. Raptors, while still low with the exception of Red-tails and Kestrels, at least show no further decline. There were numerous sightings of over-wintering Bluebirds perhaps due to the mildness of the winter.

Rarities include Eared Grebe and Merlin. Morgan Jones had an Eared Grebe, a Horned Grebe, and a Red-necked Grebe on Seneca Lake all in the field of his scope at one time. What an opportunity for close comparison!

Remarkable because of their out of season appearance were Turkey Vulture, Dunlin, Barn Swallow and Loggerhead Shrike. Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers occasionally over-winter but seldom in as large numbers as at Junius Ponds in Seneca County this winter.

Abbreviations. Cay—Cayuga; Co—County; COS—Cornell Ornithology Seminar; GCC—Geneva Christmas Count; ICC—Ithaca Christmas Count; L—Lake; MCC—Montezuma Christmas Count; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SAD—Seneca Army Depot; Schy—Schuyler; WFC—Waterfowl Count.

Contributors and area compilers; BA—Betty Ammerman; WB— Walter Benning; JB—Jack Brubaker (Watkins); RG—Robert Gustafson (MNWR); FC—Frank Guthrie (Kuka); MJ—Morgan Jones (SAD); DK—Doug Kibbe; DM—Dorothy McIlroy (Ithaca); JJS—James and Judy Stewart; JW—Jayson Walker (Waterloo).

LOONS–DUCKS: Common Loon: 2-3 Dec 19-Dec 6 Sen L (JB); 1 Jan Keuka L (FG); IICC. Red-throated Loon: 1 Jan 12 Keuka L (FG) first there since Oct 1959. Red-necked Grebe: 1 Dec-Jan Keuka L (FG) first there since Dec 1956; 1 Mar 9 Sen L (MJ et al). *EARED GREBE*: 1 Mar 9 Sen L (MJ et al) verification report filed. Pied-billed Grebe: up to 9 over-wintered on Cay L; more than normal on Keuka L. Great Blue Heron: as usual a few over-wintered where open water was available; first spring migrant Mar 15. Whistling Swan: reported at CCS on Dec 4 and Jan 10; first spring report 7 Mar 5 Sen L; widely reported on lakes and ponds; max 49 Cayuta L and 36 Keuka I. Canada Goose: for the third straight year large numbers wintered in the Finger Lakes area; there were fewer than last year on Cay L but 3,000 wintered on Sen L; 1,800 came into MNWR Feb; max 50,000 MNWR, 60,000 Sen L with no count available for the thousands on Cay L. Snow Goose:9 white morph and 20 blue morph Feb 22 MNWR; max there 215 white and 1200 blue; 13 white 1 blue Mar 20 Watkins Glen; 2 white 6 blue Mar 24 SAD.

Figures given below for MNWR are peak duck counts. Mallard: 691 ICC; 2,996 WFC down from last year; 6,000 MNWR. Black: 1,027 WFC is only 40% of 1973; 6,500 MNWR. Gadwall: 100 MNWR; reported over-wintering on Cay, Sen and Keuka L; 33 wintering near Geneva is more than usual. Pintal: 1-2 all winter at Ithaca arrived Mar 7 MNWR with max 7,000. Green-winged Teak arrived Mar 4 Ithaca; 800 MNWR. Blue-winged Teal: arrived Mar 23 Ithaca; 100 MNWR. American Wigeon: 16 Cay L WFC; 400 MNWR. Wood Duck 2 ICC; female Jan 31-Feb 13 Sen L (JB); 100 MNWR. Redhead: 7,724 WFC more than double last year's low figure; max at MNWR only 10. Ring-necked Duck: 8 WFC; arrived 125 Mar 9 MNWR;. Canvasback: 1,459 WFC up from 910 last year. Scaup: 1,590 WFC down from last year. Common Goldeneye: 705 WFC less than half of last year's high figure but the mildness of the winter may have held this species farther north. Bufflehead: 316 WFC; 18 ICC. Oldsquaw: 22 WFC; 25 Mar 9 Sen L (JW). White-winged Scoter: female Jan 4-13 Sen L (JB). Ruddy Duck: 2 reported regularly at n end Sen L all winter increased to 7 by Mar 19 (JJS). Hooded Merganser: 22 WFC with 19 of them on Keuka L; 20 mid Mar Sen L; 25 Mar 30 Cayuta L (JB); 100 MNWR. Common Merganser: 219 WFC high mostly on Sen L; 100 MNWR. Red-breasted Merganser: 5 WFC; no other reports.

HAWKS–OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 1 GCC no verifying details; arrived Mar 23 SWS. Goshawk: 2 ICC; 1 GCC; 1 MNWR (RG); 1 Jan and 1 Mar Keuka (FG); reported regularly at COS; an adult and a juvenile at JP (JJS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 ICC; 1 Feb 12 Clyde (WB); 1 Jan 15-25 JP and 1 Jan 25 Phelps (JJS). Cooper's Hawk: 1 ICC; 2 GCC; "several" reports from Schy Co; "fairly common" at Ithaca (DK). Red-tailed Hawk: 69 ICC very high; 67 CCC; 25 MNWR (RG); good numbers everywhere. Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 MCC. Rough-legged Hawk: 5 ICC; reported at COS in late Feb and Mar; up to 5 around Hector Feb-Mar (JB); 2 MNWR (RG); "good year" at SAD (MJ); up to 3 dark phased birds seen Jan 12-20 from Seneca Falls to Clifton Springs (JJS); 2 in Waterloo area (JW). Marsh Hawk; 1 ICC; several reports from Schy Co; 2 MNWR (RG); 1 Dec 28 JP (JJS). *MERLIN*: 1 near Mecklenberg (Ron Howard fide JB) no details; 1 ICC specimen no details. American Kestrel: 20 ICC high; 61 GCC very high; 15 MNWR (RG); up 30% at SAD (MJ).

Ruffed Grouse: 6 ICC; 3 GCC, Ring-necked Pheasant: 77 ICC up from last year's low; reduced numbers in Keuka area; 22 GCC. *JAPANESE GREEN PHEASANT*: 3 ICC presumably from Conservation Dept releases. Turkey: 5 ICC; 23 at Texas Hollow, 12 at Oak Hill and 14 at Alpine in Feb (JB). American Coot: 772 WFC; 54 ICC; 20 MNWR; down at Keuka. Killdeer: 1 ICC; 3 Dec 13 Watkins Canal; 1 Feb 28 Watkins Glen (JB); I Feb 22 SAD (MJ, and JP (JJS); reported

regularly at COS from Feb 18 on; 3 over-wintered near Phelps (JJS); 6 MNWR. American Woodcock: 12 Mar 6 Conn Hill (JB); 1 Mar 4 Ithaca (DM). *DUNLIN:* 1 Jan 21 Meyers Pt Cay L (DK) and 1 Mar 9-10 Stewart Park Ithaca (Elaine Kibbe); no report filed on either sighting.

All gull counts were low at Ithaca. No white-winged gulls reported. Great Black-backed Gull: 10 ICC; 1 GCC. Herring Gull: 102 ICC; 41 GCC; 150 MNWR (RG). Ring-billed Gull: 88 ICC; 16 GCC; 100 MNWR (RG); 300 Mar 20 Sen L (JW). Bonaparte's Gull: 1 Mar 31 Cayuta L (JB); 1 Mar 27 Sen L (MJ); 1 Mar 24 Stewart Park, Ithaca. Mourning Dove: over-wintered in good numbers; 206 ICC; 126 GCC. *MONK PARAKEET*: 2 in late Feb near Tyrone, Schy Co; at least one was killed. *BARN OWL;* a sick bird found Jan 24 in barn near Waterloo was brought to JW; died later. Screech Owl; 8 ICC high; scattered reports thruout region. Great Horned Owl: 27 ICC against 11 last year; female seen on nest Feb 14 JP (JJS); 7 GCC; 8 very high numbers SAD (MJ). Snowy Owl; no reports. Barred Owl: 1 ICC. Long-eared Owl: 1 ICC; 3 in pines on Ritter Rd Sen Co (DK). Short-eared Owl: 2 ICC; up to 8 at Watts Rd quarry Sen Co; 8 MNWR; 23 mid-Jan s of Romulus (MJ). Saw-whet Owl: 1 Feb 27 thru Mar Art Knapp farm Schy Co (JB, 1 Feb 16 Turkey Hill (Elaine Kibbe); 1 Feb 17 Burns Rd Ithaca (P Koestner).

GOATSUCKERS–STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: 6 ICC; 4 GCC; usual few wintered. Common Flicker, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: nomal or better numbers in all parts of the region. Pileated Woodpecktr: 1 Dec Bath (BA); 1 GCC; 1 MCC; 1 Mar 19 (JJS). Red-bellied Woodpecker: 9 ICC very high; good numbers reported from Keuka, SAD, Waterloo and MNWR. Rtd-headed Woodpecker: 1 wintered in vineyard near Bath (BA); 1 Feb 2 Aurora (DK); 1 GCC. Horned Lark: 172 ICC; 4 GCC low; the northern subspecies unusually plentiful at Keuka (FG). *BARN SWALLOW*: 2 Jan 28 Stewart Park Ithaca; one bird lasted at least until Jan 29; field note to be submitted; no verifying details forwarded to Editor, Blue Jay: normal. Common Crow: 530 ICC back down from last year's abnormal high of 1173; roost near JP increased from 18 in late Feb to 397 Mar 5 and disbanded in late Mar; northern movement noted from Feb 22 on (WB). Boreal Chickadee: 1 late Dec Keuka (FG). Tufted Titmouse: 54 ICC; 6 GCC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: Small numbers only; many observers reported none. Brown Creeper: 20 ICC about normal; 8 GCC. Winter Wren: reported Feb 17 and Mar 11 at COS. Carolina Wren: 1 ICC; 5 in Dec at 3 sites in Schy Co (JB); 4 sites in Ithaca area (DK). Mockingbird: 6 ICC; 5 locations in Schy Co; 1 at JP. Robin: usual wintering occurred in favored locations; 100 birds each at JP and Monterey Schy Co; 50 at Keuka. Bluebird: several Jan 6 along Rt 414 Schy Co; 2 Dec 11 Clyde (V. Kenreich); flock of 22 late Mar Keuka; 2 males Jan 31 SAD; 1 Feb 8 s of Geneva (MJ); 5 Dec 31 n of Geneva (JJS). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 38 ICC high; 7 GCC; present at JP all winter. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 ICC; 1 GCC; reported Mar 11 GOS. Water Pipit: 1 Mar 20 Ithaca (DK). Northern Shrike: 2 ICC; 2 GCC; reported from Ithaca, Keuka, Watkins and JP. *LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE*: 1 MCC verification report on file.

VIREOS–SPARROWS: Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: up to 19 over-wintered at JP (JJS). Eastern Meadowlark: Only a few over-wintering birds reported. Red-winged Blackbirds: 37 ICC high; males arrived Feb 25 and females Mar 16 MNWR, Rusty Blackbird: Mar 8 McLean; 1 Mar 12 Clyde (WB); 1 Mar 22 JP (JJS). Common Grackle: arrived Mar 3 MNWR. Brown-headed Cowbird: 48 ICC; usual over-wintering. Cardinal: 180 ICC; 72 GCC; flocks of several dozen SAD and MNWR (MJ). Evening Grosbeak: 556 ICC; only winter finch in good number. Purple Finch: scarce. House Finch; 1 Mar 20 at JB feeder; 20 over-wintered at Ithaca waterworks. Pine Grosbeak: no reports. Common Redpoll: 1 Mar 23

Waterloo (JW); late Jan Bath; reported at COL from Feb 11 on. Pine Siskin: scattered reports. American Goldfinch: good numbers; 303 ICC; 131 GCC. Red Crossbill: 5 Feb 2 Watts Rd Sen Co (DK). White-winged Crossbill: reports from Bath, Schy Co, Keuka, MNWR, Ithaca and Phelps; singles or small groups only. Rufous-sided Towhee: 1-4 thruout period JP (JJS).

Savannah Sparrow: 1 MCC; 1 Mar 23 SAD at feeder (MJ). Vesper Sparrow: 1 Mar 21 Canoga. Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco; 119 ICC; 56 GCC. Tree Sparrow: good numbers; 530 ICC; 179 GCC. Chipping Sparrow; 1 Mar 7 no details Ithaca. Field Sparrow: 1-3 thruout period JP (JJS). White-crowned Sparrow: 1 ICC; 2 GCC. White-throated Sparrow: 52 ICC gool; 3 GCC. Fox Sparrow: 1 Mar 21 Schy Co; 1 Mar 19 Etna. Swamp Sparrow: 1 ICC. Song Sparrow: usual small number over-wintered; became abundant everywhere by mid-Mar. Lapland Longspur: 1 ICC; a few reported from Ithaca and Keuka. Snow Bunting: flocks up to 1,000 at Keuka; 593 ICC.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

Leslie E. Bemont

It was another mild winter. The only recorded sub-zero temperature was -2 on Dec 19. Snowfall, over all, was above normal, but more than half of it either fell before and was gone by Christmas or fell after mid-March. Jan and Feb, therefore, were less snowy than normal, although the ground was not completely bare very much of the time. The heavy late Mar snows were at least potentially dangerous for early migrants, but no tragedies were reported.

Neither northern raptors nor winter finches put on much of a show although there was a little bit of almost everything. And in spite of mild conditions most of the usual semi-hardy species were missing, too, leaving that field to relatively ordinary blackbirds and robins, a flicker, a few field sparrows, white-throated sparrows and a white-crowned sparrow. Perhaps the pre-Christmas snow storm finished any others off early. For rarities there were a possible Gray Jay, a Red-bellied Woodpecker, a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, a freakish Feb 5 Barn Swallow and, the piece de resistance, a Townsend's Solitaire.

The new AUO Check List supplement had an effect on the winter reports. In addition to the old slate-colored and the new dark-eyed there were a few strange gray-eyed and black-eyed juncoes reported. How are we ever going to untangle Traill's Flycatcher?

Abbreviations: Bing—Binghamton; BCC—Bing Christmas Count, Dec 30, 1973; TCC—Tioga Bird Club Christmas Bird Count, Dec 31, 1973; WFC—Waterfowl Count; WP—Whitney Point.

Observers' initials: J,CB—Jeannette and Cutler Baldwin; CB—Cheryl Boise; AC—Ann Casselberry; MC—Mildred Clark; A,MD—Anna and Marilyn Davis; MD—Mary Dobinsky; CG—Claire Gottschall; EH—Elva Hawken; CK— Cindy Kirch; EK—Engene Kirch; HM—Harriet Marsi; PM—Pete Martin; R,RP— Robert and Rita Pantle; R,JS—Robert and Jeanne Saunders; MS—Mary Sheffield; LS—Lurilla Stevens; E,FV—E. and F. Vermilya; EW—Elizabeth Washburn; R,SW—Ruth and Sally White; KW—Kathryn Wilson; IW—Irene Wright.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: 1 Jan 19 Bainbridge (R,JS), WFC; migrant Mar 13 Delhi (MC). Great Blue Heron: Mar 16 Colliersville (MD, KW). Whistling Swan: Feb 28 Vestal (EH), the only report. Canada Goose: 1 BCC; 35 Dec 1 Candor (R,RP); 2 Jan 16 Bing (HM), WFC; 1 Jan 20 Cortland (John Gustafson), WFC; 50 Feb 21 Owego (J,CB); migrants in earnest after Mar 3.

Mallard: 11 BCC; 75 Jan 16 Bing WFC; 150 Jan 17 Sherburne (R,SW), WFC. Black Duck: 16 BCC; 121 WFC. Gadwall: 1 BCC. Pintail 24 WP and Chenango Bridge (A,MD). Green-winged Teal: Mar 16 WP (A,MD). Blue-winged Teal: Mar 24 Owego (J,CB). American Wigeon: Mar 28 Chenango Bridge (EW, CG). Wood Duck: 1 Jan 16 Bing (HM); Mar 23 WP (MS). Redhead: 1 Jan 16 Bing (CG, AC), WFC, the only report. Ring-necked Duck: Mar 6 Nichols (EH, et. al.). Canvasback: Mar 16 and 24 WP (A,MD), the only reports. Common Goldeneye: 14 Jan 20 Owego (L. Bemont), WFC; 13 Jan 20 Center Village to Bainbridge (R,JS), WFC; more frequent reports after Mar 16. Buffiehead: Mar 20 WP (EW, et. al.). Oldsquaw: Mar 28 Chenango Bridge (EW, CG). Hooded Merganser: Dec 5 Owego (J,CB); 1 Jan 16 Bing (CG, AC), WFC; 1 Jan 16 Bing (HM), WFC; migrants Mar 16. Common Merganser: 25 Jan 12 Wells Bridge to Colliersville (MD, KW); 10 Jan 20 Bainbridge (R,JS), WFC; more frequent reports after Mar 6. Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Mar 3 Owego (J,CB); several more reports after Mar 6.

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: 1 Dec 24 Chenango Bridge (MS); 1 Jan 9 Vestal Center (EW); 1 Mar 21 Minman's Corners (R,JS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Dec 16 Choconut Center (MS); Mar 22 Candor (R,RP), regularly to the end of the period; Mar 30 Choconut Center (MS). Cooper's Hawk: the only report. Red-tailed Hawk: 8 BCC; 1 TCC; 9 Jan 12 Wells Bridge to Colliersville (MD, KW), the best count all winter, although reported frequently throughout the Region. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 TCC; 1 Mar 1 Owego (J,CB). Broad-winged Hawk: Mar 30 Choconut Center (MS). Rough-legged Hawk: 1 Jan 13 Laurens, near Oneonta, (MD, KW), dark phase; 3 Jan 24 Sherburne (CB), 1 light, 2 dark; 3 at Laurens Jan 26 and 2 at Gilbert Lake Feb 10 (MD, KM); 2 (dark) Feb 13 Sherburne (CB);; 1 Feb 19 Owego (J.CB). Bald Eagle: 1 Jan 22 Margaretville (Mr. Dibble); 3 Mar 25 and 29 Pepacton Reservoir (MC), feeding on dead deer. Marsh Hawk: Feb 28 Owego (J,CB); 3 at Candor Mar 25 to 30 (R,RP). American Kestrel: 5 BCC; 3 TCC; numerous winter reports. Ruffed Grouse: 5 BCC; 1 TCC. Ring-necked Pheasant: 7 BCC; 7 TCC. Turkey: 10 TCC; 2 Jan 16 near Richardville (CG, AC); several other Tioga Co. records, the best count 20 Feb 28 (PM). American Coot: Jan 5 Goodyear Lake (MD, KW); Mar 30 WP (A,MD). Killdeer: Feb 24 Colliersville (MD, et al.); 1 other report before Mar 6. American Woodcock: Mar 3 Owego (PM); Mar 4 Minman's Corners (R,JS). Common Snipe: Mar 24 Apalachin (EW). Herring Gull: 20 BCC; 2 TCC. Ring-billed Gull: 1TCC. Bonaparte's Gull: 12 Mar 30 WP (A,MD). Mourning Dove: 32 BCC; 52 TCC; frequent reports all winter. Screech Owl: fairly frequent reports from Bing and Owego areas. Great Horned Owl: 6 BCC. Snowy Owl: 1 Dec 6 WP (R,SW), the only report. Barred Owl: Feb 9 south of Bing (EK, Gail Corderman). Short-eared Owl: Jan 15 Bing (MS, Robert Sheffield).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: 5 BCC. Common Flicker: Jan 31 Owego (J,CB); 1 Mar 25 Goodyear Lake (LS). Red-bellied Woodpecker: mid Dec to Mar 4 Owego (Robert Weber), coming to feeder. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 BCC. Hairy Woodpecker: 8 BCC; 23 TCC. Downy Woodpecker: 34 BCC; 52 TCC. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: Dec 8 Milford (MD, KW), "observed for about half an hour". Eastern Phoebe: 2 Mar 24 West Oneonta (E,FV); same date Candor ,R,RP. Tree Swallow: 1 Mar 31 Candor (R,RP). Barn Swallow: Feb 5 Kirkwood, near Bing, (Mrs. Raymond Keegan), very freakish but good description and fresh droppings under roost near last year's nest—no second observer in spite of several attempts, was seen for several days. Gray Jay: 1 Jan 23 Oneonta (Mrs. J. Koenig), reasonable description. Blue Jay: 203 BCC; 208 TCC. Common Crow: 345 BCC; 222 TCC. Black-capped Chickadee: 300 BCC; 162 TCC. Tufted Titmouse: 17 BCC; 31 TCC; regular at several feeders in Bing,

Endwell and Owego; Dec 7 Meredith (Mrs. Guntert); 5 Jan and Feb reports of 2 birds at 1 feeder in Oneonta (IW); Mar 3 Oneonta and Mar 4 Hartwick College (R. Rabeler). White-breasted Nuthatch: 49 BCC; 48 TCC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 BCC; 1 TCC; Dec 3 and frequently until Feb 1 (LS); regular at several Bing area feeders. Brown Creeper: 14 BCC. Winter Wren: 1 Feb 6 Vestal EH, et al), the only report all winted. Carolina Wren: 1 Dec 2 Chenango Forks (A,MD). Mockingbird: 3 BCC; 1 TCC; 1 Dec 6 Oneonta (IW); 1 Jan 1 Norwich (R,SW); 1 Feb 6 Vestal (EH, et. al.); Mar 13 "returned" to Endwell (Florence Linaberry); 2 Mar 24 Owego (J,CB); "all winter" Delhi (Anne Gile); 1 "frequently during period" in 2 other Oneonta localities (E,FV, Irene Smith). Robin: 1 BCC; 4 Jan 26 and 5 Feb 2 Oneonta (E,FV), the best counts of fairly numerous winter reports. Eastern Bluebird: 1 male Feb 16 Berkshire (Margaret Layton); next report Mar 10 Delhi (MC); regular reports thereafter. Townsend's Solitaire: 1 Jan 12 (MD, KW), "prominent eye ring, all over light gray, larger than sparrow, small thin bill, white edges on tail feathers" —viewed with scope 20 – 30 minutes, full field note has been requested. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 40 BCC; more frequent reports reports than most winters. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Endicott (Faith McKrell). Water Pipit: Mar 24 Owego (J,CB). Cedar Waxwing: 1 BCC. Northern Shrike: Dec 24 Bing (MS); 6 Jan and Feb reports from Owego, Oneonta, Sherburne and WP. Starling: 4567 BCC; 701 TCC.

BLACKBIRDS–SPARROWS: House Sparrow: 410 BCC; 341 TCC. Eastern Meadowlark: Dec 25 Vestal (Don Gottschall, CG); 1 Jan 1 Meredith (Pearl Johnson); 1 Jan 16 Milford (E,FV); 2 Jan 2 to 19 Candor (R,RP), coming to feed; migrants Mar 8. Red-winged Blackbird: 9 BCC; migrants Feb 23, large flocks Feb 25 and regular from Mar 3. Rusty Blackbird: 1 TCC; 2 Dec 11, 12 and 15 Oneonta (IW); migrants Mar 5 Owego (J,CB). Common Grackle: 8 TCC; 1 to 3 often throughout winter at West Davenport near Oneonta (Dorothy House); a few other scattered reports; migrants from Feb 28. Brown-headed Cowbird: 10 Jan 22 Owego (J,CB), the highest count of a small number of winter records; migrants Feb 25; regular after Mar 9. Cardinal; 98 BCC; 103 TCC. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 Dec 14 (Mrs. David Baldwin), "good description" to KM. Evening Grosbeak: 125 BCC; 223 TCC; after early promise numbers were considerably down from last year with only sporadic reports in some areas after Jan, but 50 or more at Candor (R,RP) were regular and the best numbers reported. Purple Finch: 3 BCC; 2 TCC; present all winter, but none too numerous. House Finch: 14 BCC, with 24 more seen the same day not included; at 1 Endwell feeder where they were constantly present and in good numbers last summer, they were absent most of the winter until Mar 8 when they were back and singing; 1 male Mar 17 and 1 female Mar 25 Oneonta (R. Rabeler). Common Redpoll: almost absent in Dec, scarce in Jan, becoming more common in Feb and everywhere in Mar; 200 Feb 13 Oneonta (C. Hamwey), the largest flock reported. Pine Siskin: 5 TCC; much less common than Redpolls but present all winter; 30 or more Mar 6 Norwich (R,SW), the best count and last report but 1 Mar 20. American Goldfinch: 53 BCC; 99 TCC; present all winter in steady and fairly substantial numbers but far from a peak year. Red Crossbill: 4 Dec 30 Johnson City (Bert Wilmuth); 5 Mar 15 Bing (EK, CK); Mar 20 Oneonta (E,FV). White-winged Crossbill: 1 Dec 12 Endicott (Faith McKrell); 1 Feb 4 Chenango Bridge (R. Branford); 12 or more Mar 29 Sherburne (R,SW), "have been at conservation center all winter"; 4 Mar 31 Bing (EK, CK). Dark-eyed Junco: 118 BCC; 132 TCC; common all winter. Tree Sparrow: 317 BCC; 185 TCC. Field Sparrow: 4 TCC; Feb 24 Colliersville (MD, et. al.); 1 Mar 10 Oneonta (E,FV). White-crowned Sparrow: 1 at Friendsville, in nearby Penna., all Jan and finally banded (CG). White-throated Sparrow: 5 BCC; 1 TCC; rather numerous winter reports. Fox Sparrow: Mar 8 Vestal (Bacheller, O'Keefe); regular after Mar 17. Swamp

Sparrow: 1 TCC. Song Sparrow: 12 BCC; 5 TCC; several Jan reports; migrants from Feb 24, regular from Mar 6 and abundant from Mar 16. Lapland Longspur: 2 Jan 22 near Montrose, in nearby Penna., (CG, AC). Snow Bunting: Dec 28 Union Center, near Endicott (CG, AC); a flock of 1000 or more Jan 24, Sherburne (CB) was much the best count of 6 Jan and Feb reports.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Winter weather (and months) seemed interminable, albeit mild with only moderate snowfall fortunately coupled with sufficient warm periods to prevent massive snow accumulations. By mid March the snowfall was twenty inches shy of normal; however, when spring should have come, winter returned and by the end of March, snowfall was fifteen inches in excess of the average 108 inches (Syracuse) and the migration, well advanced by March 15, had halted completely. March waterfowl numbers were uniformly low and the hawk migration at Derby Hill had less than 1200 birds for the season to date similar large Icterids tallies did not appear until after March 31.

Winter positives included 1) a few half-hardy species of waterfowl attempting to winter; 2) above average (for recent years) numbers of Accipiters; 3) excellent numbers of Red-tailed Hawks 4) large numbers of wintering Ring-billed Gulls; 5) a moderate flight of white-winged gulls; 6) increased numbers of wintering Mourning Doves; 7) increasing reports of Carolina Wren; 8) above average numbers of wintering American Robin and Golden-crowned Kinglet; 9) a very good Northern Shrike incursion; and 10) a few finches, more notablt for variety than for numbers.

Negatives included 1) a pancity of virtually all wintering waterfowl with even a drop in the local welfare-state Mallards; 2) a very poor Rough-legged Hawk and Snowy Owl flight; 3) continued decline in Ring-necked Pheasant and, to a lesser extent, in Ruffed Grouse; 4) a frank scarcity of small landbirds, particularly Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Brown Creeper, in the local woodlands; 5) no wintering warblers despite the mild weather; 6) a winter-long absence of Purple Finch; 7) reduced numbers of wintering sparrows and Snow Buntings.

Rare birdst for the season were few but included Barrow's Golden-eye at Little Sodus, Harlequin Duck at Lakeview, and Hawk Owl at Vernon.

Abbreviations: FH—Fair Haven; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral; LSB—Little Sodus Bay; NPT—Northern Pompey Township; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park; Syr—Syracuse; Syr CBC—Syracuse Christmas Bird Count Dec 15; Skan CBC—Skaneateles Christmas Bird Count Dec 16; WFC—NYS Federation Waterfowl Census.

Observers: DWC—D.W. Crumb; PAD—P. A. DeBenedictis; GM—G. Maxwell; JWP— J. W. Propst; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F. G. Scheider; GAS—G. A. Smith; CGS—C. G. Spies; CW—C. Wernick.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1-2 Dec 23 to Feb 6 Oswego only reports (GM, CW)| Horned Grebe: Dec max 23 Dec 2 LOL with winter max 14 WFC Jan 19. Great Blue Heron: singles only in hill country creek valleys and sewage outflows thru winter; first migrant Mar 28 Wampsville B&S Peebles). American Bittern; emaciated bird found Jan 1 near Westvale (Mrs. Herrold); treated at local zoo.

Whistling Swan: 1-4/day Mar 10—30 Oneida L and SSSP (PAD, GAS), only a few but better than nothing. Canada Goose: spring arr Feb 20, 14, E. Syracuse (A & B Brosseau); max 9000 SRF Mar 31, probably mainly Montezuma NWR spillover. Brant: 2 imm present to Dec 15 (very late) Onondaga L.

Mallard: WFC total 1666 (mainly from waterfowl feeding areas—Syr, Brewerton,

Baldwinsville), down 600 from last year. Black Duck: up slightly—WFC 357 and in somewhat better numbers in late Mar. Single Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, and Wood Duck attempted to winter; only the Pintail survived. Mar max for Pintail only 55 Mar 9 SRF and for American Wigeon 70 Mar 30 Oneida L and LSB (both very low). Redhead: only 11 on WFC (very low) and equally scarce were Canvasback with only 4 wintering over. Greater Scaup: up slightly with best numbers 3903 on WFC; however, Lesser Scaup were very scarce with only 1-3/day thru the period. (normally Gr: Lesser Scaup ratio 100:1). Common Golden-eye: 676 on WFC quite low: Mar max 289 Mar 2 LSB and Oneida L. *BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE*: adult male Mar 9 LSB (FGS). Oldsquaw frankly a crash species this winter-max 55 Jan 26 east of Oswego with most counts a pitiful 6 to 20/day, even from L Ontario. *HARLEQUIN DUCK*: 1 Dec 2 Lakeview (PAD, MSR, FGS) is only report. *KING EIDER*: winter max 4 Oswego Harbor thru Jan and Feb with last report there Mar 2. White-winged Scoter: only 2 on WFC; winter max 26 Mar 2 FH and Oswego, incredibly low throughout the winter.

Hooded Merganser: Dec max 236 Dec 1 south shore Oneida L; only 2 on WFC. Common Merganser: like Oldsquaw, a disaster species thru this winter—max only 400 Feb 3 Oswego Harbor (they used to be there in the thousands) and only 3 Skaneateles L Jan 12 (MSR).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: 16 individuals from 17 observers with 15 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 12 Cooper's Hawks from the same 17; definitely an increase in wintering Sharp-shinned Hawks, particularly surprising in view of the paucity of small landbirds, their normal prey. Red-tailed Hawk: the wintering raptor with counts of 6 to 22/day plus such numbers as 15 Oriskany area Feb 8 (M. Stooks), 32 Clay Jan 16 (GAS), and 81 on the Syr CBC Dec 15. Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 singles Dec Fulton (FL) and Jan 25 Oneida (R & J Van Scoy); arr date Mar 2 near Marcy (A Steinbacher), early. Rough-legged Hawk: 1-3/day thru period with max 5 near Brewerton Jan 12 (PAD) and none in the southern sections of Onondaga Co; many observers saw none for the entire winter and the south shore of Oneida L, though rich with microtines, had almost no Rough-legged Hawks (but lots of Red-tails). Harrier: total of 4 wintering birds (low). American Kestrel: fall numbers into winter with 1-14/day and numbers persistent thru Feb.

Ruffed Grouse: max only 5 Jan 9 Eaton (G Church); most counts only 1-2/day and many observers didn't see any all winter. Ring-necked Pheasant: terrible—incredibly scarce with max only 6-7/day and most reports showing either none or 1-2, and those often at backyard feeders.

Wintering shorebirds include 5 Killdeer at DeWitt and 6 Common Snipe at Fayetteville. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Mar 23 2 S Onondaga (JWP) is a record arr date; present there to end of period but unreported elsewhere.

Glaucous and Iceland Gulls: winter max 12 Glaucous and 10 Iceland Jan 6 Oswego River and Harbor area; away from the Syr dumps and the Oswego River axis, undetected. Great Black-backed Gull: max 150 Jan 13 Fulton and Oswego (PAD, CGS). Huge numbers of Ring-billed Gulls wintered at Oswego Harbor with max 7000 Jan 6 and still 4000 there Jan 27 compared to 3000 and 1100 Herring Gulls on those dates respectively.

Mourning Dove: definitely increasing as a wintering bird with 198 Syr CBC Dec 15; 300 Jan 4 Tully Farms Rd near Tully (JWP); 150 Vernon Jan 3; some drop in numbers with the severe weather of early Feb. Great Horned Owl: max 10 Eaton (G Church); many reports of 1-2 thru the winter. Snowy Owl: 3 singles for entire winter and none from the LOL—definitely not a flight winter. Hawk Owl: single bird (but extraordinarily cooperative) at Vernon Dec 15 to Mar 3 (M. Stooks, mob); seen by hundreds of observers and photographed ad infinitum—the one bit of strigiforme spice to a lackluster winter.

GOATSUCKERS–STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: max 8 Syr CBC Dec 15; 1-5/day thru remainder of winter; definitely helped by the mild winter. Common Flicker: max 10 Syr CBC Dec 15; 5 on Skaneateles CBC Dec 16 lesser numbers thru Jan with a marked drop in early Feb. Red-bellied Woodpecker: spreading thru the floodplain woodlots of the south shore of Oneida Lake (Maple Bay, Shackleton Point, Short Point Bay); also 2 Halfway Swamp near Elbridge Dec 16 and up to 4 west of Oswego (CW). 3 Red-headed Woodpecker (DWC, T. Riley, Timmerman) and 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Mrs. C Maxwell, S. Sage) reported for the winter – usually only 1/winter. Hairy: Downy Woodpecker ratios this winter are 15 to 45 Oswego CBC; 20 to 70 Syr CBC; 13 to 42 Skaneateles CBC, a slight shift from the usual one to two ratio.

Horned Lark: terrible spring flight–most counts only 6–20/day and the high count was only 50 (very low) Feb 1 (M Stooks). Blue Jay: rather scarce afield with max for both Syr and Skan CBC below 100; only Oswego-Fulton CBC up with 202 Dec 23. Tufted Titmouse: 1-3/day at Oneida (Dodges), New Haven (Kidney), and Skaneateles (MSR). Red-breasted Nuthatch: incredibly scarce this winter–total of 7 individuals for entire region for entire winter–actually scarcer than Goshawk. Brown Creeper: present in numbers thru Dec (20 Syr CBC 16 Oswego CBC) but scarce thru remainder of winter (1-2/day). Winter Wren: max 7 Syr CBC Dec 16; 3 wintered thru at Onondaga and at Camillus Valley. Carolina Wren: at least 6 individuals noted, primarily at feeders at Oneida, Fayetteville, DeWitt, Syracuse, and Marietta; 1 at Camillus Valley wintered thru apparently without feeder help. Gray Catbird: 1 wintering Onondaga Indian Reservation Feb 24 (PAD, FGS).

Robin: the wintering bird–flocks of 50–150/day in sheltered valleys south of Syracuse with max 200 Jan 21 Onondaga Valley (FGS, PAD). Hermit Thrush: single wintered to Jan at Jamesville (A. Harmon). Golden-crowned Kinglet: slightly increased wintering numbers–24 Syr CBC, 29 Skan CBC. Cedar Waxwing: large flocks thru winter (165–180/day) but, as is typical with waxwings, highly erratic (JWP, M Stooks, PAD).

Northern Shrike: totals (from 17 observers) by month are Dec 31, Jan 19, Feb 24, Mar 13 (no significant return flight); max 6 Dec 2 LOL and 8 Syr CBC Dec 15–a very good flight. Loggerhead Shrike: 1 Feb 28 Derby Hill (DWC) is a record arr date.

VIREOS–WARBLERS: None for the period.

BLACKBIRDS–SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: 1-2/day thru winter, actually rather scarce considering how open the winter was. Red-winged Blackbird: a few wintered; spring arr date Feb 22 four Tully (JWP); 10,000/day thru the last ten days of Mar. Rusty Blackbird: 5 individuals wintered, primarily at creek and canal margins at the base of the Onondaga Escarpment. Common Grackle: Mar 11,300 Mar 31 near Conquest. Brown-headed Cowbird: 2-35/day (less than usual) with most from feeders and dump margins.

Cardinal: definitely increasing–22 Feb 7 Pompey (DWC), 16 Oriskany Feb 1 (M Stooks), 12 near Oswego Dec 22 (CW); 30 Feb 24 Nedrow and S Onondaga indicates how common this species has become in the southern valleys. Evening Grosbeak: Dec and Jan counts 20-60/day but numbers lower in Feb and rather scarce thru Mar except at select feeders. Purple Finch: dep date Dec 8 eight Trenton (Van Dresar); none for rest of winter with no returning birds reported in Mar. Common Redpoll: modest numbers thru winter; flocks of 6-35/day with max 200 Feb 8 N Pompey (DWC); migrants in small numbers (15-30/day) passing DH in late Mar. Pine Siskin: small flocks (five-3$/day) thru winter. Red Crossbill: 1 Jan 19 NPT (DWC) and 2 DeWitt Feb 17 (MSR) only reports–very scarce. White-winged Crossbill: small flocks (2-15/day) after mid-Jan, primarily from

Niger thistle, feeders in the hill country south of Syr and Utica; none reported after Mar 8.

Rufous-sided Towhee: 6 individuals, mainly feeder based, in period—a bit more than usual. Dark-eyed Junco: reduced numbers thru winter—55 Skaneateles CBC, 55 Syr CBC, 24 Oswego-Fulton CBC; no return flight in late Mar detected. Tree Sparrow: high counts thru Dec and into Jan (100+/day) but sharp drop in Feb (15-20/day); small numbers (40-75/day) in last third of Mar but no major return push noted. White-throated Sparrow: 19 Skaneateles CBC and 30 (high) Syr CBC; lesser numbers (one-12/day) thru the rest of winter. Fox Sparrow: 1 Jan 16 Lakeview Rd near Oswego (GM) only winter report; arr Mar 17 one Cedarville (R & J Van Scoy) with max 4 (low) Mar 24 Oneida (fide D Ackley). Song Sparrow: 34 Skaneateles CBC and 64 Syr CBC; good numbers thru winter with max 25 Jan 13 Cedarville area (R & J Van Scoy) and 22 Feb 24 S Onondaga; arr Mar 5 3 Syr (T Dittrich); Mar max 120 Mar 26 Tully area (JWP). Snow Bunting: flocks of 45-700/day, mainly from the three widely separated but eccologically similar areas—the farmed hill country south of Syr, and open fields along L Ontario, and the open farmland between Oneida and Utica.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

Lee B. Chamberlaine

Winter of 1973-74 was one of the mildest experienced in many years. Snow fall was very light with Tug Hill depths seldom exceeding 30 inches on the ground as compared to normal depths of 60 to 70 inches on the level. Warm weather was with us into December and open water conditions resulted in an excellent Christmas Census for Watertown with a total of 53 species.

A new species Carolina Wren was added to the regional list and some other note worthy observations for the period include many late dates for waterbirds and waterfowl, good Goshawk numbers, Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, Black-legged Kittiwakes, Hawk Owls, Short Eared Owls, Saw-whet Owls, a late Brown Thrasher, Varied Thrush, Bohemian Waxwing and good numbers of winter finches to make the winter such as it was pass quickly.

Location Abbreviations: DH—Dry Hill; JCC—Jefferson County Comunity College; PRWMA—Perch River Wildlife Management Area; PP—Point Peninsula; RM—Robert Moses Power Dam; WHMWA—Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area; CC—Christmas Count Watertown, New York December 15, 1973.

Observers: JB—John Belknap; RB—Richard Brouse; TC—Tom Carrolan; LC—Lee Chamberlaine; FC—Frank Clinch; NL—Nick Leone; JV—Joe VanRiet; RW—Robert and June Walker; mob—many observers.

LOONS–DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Dec 1 PP (RW). Horned Grebe: last Dec 7 Sherwins Bay. Great Blue Heron: 1 Dec 26 St. Lawrence River (JV). American Bittern: 1 Dec 1 PP (RW) a late date. Canada Goose: 350 CC; 52 Dec 28 last date; 55 March 2 DH (TC). Mallard: around in greater numbers this winter. Black Duck: 193 CC; around in greater numbers this winter. Mallard X Black Hybrid: 1 RM (JV). Gadwall: 2 Dec 29 RM (NL); 1 Jan 1 PP (NL); 6 Jan 5 very late (JV). Pintail: 1 Jan 25 (JV) last date; 3 Mar 6 first date (JV). Blue-wingel Teal: 1 female CC (NL); 1 Dec 26-29 seen flying (JV) *very late.* American Wigeon: 1 Feb 12 (RW) early; 6 Mar 10 PRWMA (NL). Northern *Shoveler*: 8 Dec 15 (JV) *very late.* Wood Duck: 1 CC; 1 Mar 4 first date. Ringnecked Duck: 2 Dec 15 RM (JV); 3 Mar 10 PRWMA. Canvasback: 2 Jan 1 PP (TC); 1 Mar 25 (JV). Greater Scaup: 3000 est Dec 7 Black River Bay (JB);

400 CC. Common Goldeneye: 9 CC; 56 Jan 19 (JV). Bufflehead: 2 Dec PP. Oldsquaw: 200 est Dec 7 PP (JB); 41 Jan 13 PP (RW). Black Scoter: 1 CC. Hooded Merganser: 8 Dec 1 PRWMA (RW); 1 Mar 24 RM (JV); 15 Mar 9 PRWMA (RW). Common Merganser: 3400 Jan 12 RM (JV). Red-breasted Merganser: 1 to 3 present all winter RM (JV).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 1 Mar 24 near Clayton (John Wilson) very early. Goshawk: 1 Dec 1 near Evans Mills; 1 immature Dec 9; 1 Dec 25; 1 Jan 13; 1 immature Jan 13; other winter observations at DH and PP; a good winter for Goshawk observations. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 CC (NL). Coopers Hawk: 1 CC. Red-tailed Hawk: 34 CC. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 CC. Rough-legged Hawk: numerous during Dec much scarcer the rest of the winter; 14 CC; 1 Mar 5 last date. Bald Eagle: 1 Dec 28 (JV); 1 Feb 4 Wellesley Island (R. Wakefield). Marsh Hawk: 6 CC; 1 Jan 29 PRMA (TC). American Kestrel: 4 CC; 2 Dec 29 (JV); returned in numbers in mid Mar. Ruffed Grouse: numbers up from previous winters. Gray Partridge: 17 CC; 48 in 7 coveys Dec 28 Massena (JV); 10 Jan 13 Cape Vincent; 8 Jan 13 Grassy Point State Park; 12 Feb 9 Fishers Landing; population still low. Turkey: 13 Dec 23 Wellesley Island (TC); 6 Feb 9 same location; these birds are from game farm stock and shoudl not be considered "wild" turkey (LC). American Coot: 2 CC Killdeer: 1 Feb 23 (LC) early. Woodcock. Mar DH (RW) early date. *GLAUCOUS GULL*: 1 Dec 22; 5 Dec 24; 11 Dec 26 of which 3 were mature; 21 Jan 14; 1 Mar 17 all observations RM (JV). *ICELAND GULL*: 6 Dec 26, 1 was mature; 3 Jan 5; 3 Jan 14 not seen again—all observations RM (JV). Great Black-backed Gull: 3 Dec 8; 15 Dec 11; 100+ Dec 26; 150 Jan 17; hardly any in Mar-all RM (JV). Herring Gull: 122 Dec 11; 2000 est Dec 26 RM (JV). Ring-billed Gull: 2200 Dec 11; 200± Dec 26; 8 Jan 14; 100 Mar 4—all RM (JV). Bonaparte's Gull: left last of Nov (JV). *BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE*: 1 immature Dec 1; 1 mature Jan 5 both RM (JV). Mourning Dove: 35 CC; more birds this winter perhaps due to open conditions of the winter. Screech Owl: 5 CC. Great Horned Owl: 1 Dec 2 DH; 1 Dec 29; 1 on nest Feb 24 DH (RW). Snowy Owl: 1 Dec 1 PRWMA; 1 Mar 3 Chaumont; not present in numbers that were down last winter. *HAWK OWL*: 1 Dec 1—Feb 27 WHWMA (JV); 1 Jan 13 Cape Vincent (RM). Barred Owl: 1 Dec 12 Fishers Landing (RB). *SHORT-EARED OWL*: I Dec 1 Chaumont (RW); 3 CC (RW). *SAW-WHET OWL*: 1 Dec 25 photographed (JV); 1 with injured wing turned over to Nature Center Wellesley Island.

GOATSUCKER—STARLINGS: Belted Kingfisher: 1 Jan 27 Clayton (RW). Common Flicker: 2 Feb 10 PRWMA (RB). Pileated Woodpecker: 6 observations and 7 individuals seen during period; numbers up– Hairy Woodpecker: 38 CC. Downy Woodpecker: 56 CC. Horned Lark: 2 Dec 30; 12 Feb 9; in numbers Mar 23 Henderson area (LC). Blue Jay: 67 CC. Common Crow: 2 present all winter Massena (JV); Mar 23 & 28 heavy migration (600+) over Tug Hill area (LC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 CC; 2 Dec 28 (JV). Brown Creeper: 3 CC; 1 Dec 25. *CAROLINA WREN*: 1 Jan 17 (RW) (TC) a regional first. *BROWN THRASHER*: 1 present at a feeder from Dec till end of Feb Massena (JV). American Robin: many more wintering individuals this winter. *VARIED THRUSH*: 1 adult male Dec 28 Hyde Lake at feeder of Mr. & Mrs. Harold Wenk; observed from distance of 12 feet in good light (RW); second regional record; first record Dec 8, 1958 (JB) see (Kingbird Vol IX No 1); bird still present Mar 31 (mob). Eastern Bluebird: 1 Mar 7 DH (RW). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1 CC (NL). *BOHEMIAN WAXWING*: 1 Mar 4 DH (RW). Cedar Waxwing: 20 Dec 4 DH (RW); 12 Feb 4; 20 Mar 4 (RW). Northern Shrike: a good year many observations; adults and immatures, immature killed and pulled Tree Sparrow part way through Potter banding trap; dead bird removed and placed out on trapping plat-

form for shrike to return which occurred almost immediately; Tree Sparrow entirely consumed and pellet regurgitated by shrike (LC).

VIREOS–SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: 2 PRWMA all winter (TC); 1 CC; 1 Dec 26 (JV); in numbers Mar 23 (LC). Red-winged Blackbird: 1 Mar 3; in numbers Mar 3-6. Common Grackle: 6 CC; in numbers Mar 6. Brown-headed Cowbird: 1 CC; in numbers Mar 15. Cardinal: 60 CC; 16 Dec 20 at feeder at one time DH (RW); more in Watertown area than previous years (FC); numbers increasing slightly in Massena (JV). Evening Grosbeak: 457 CC; about 60 daily DH Dec–Feb (RW); any one with a feeder and sunflower seed had birds this winter; present in fair numbers till end of period. Purple Finch: 5 all winter Watertown (R. Nelson); 1 Dec 28 (JV). Pine Grosbeak: 1 immature male Jan 20 Joseph A. Blake Sanctuary (NL) (TC). Common Redpoll: in small numbers Dec–Mar building in Feb–small flocks everywhere in Mar. Pine Siskin: 4 Dec 1 DH (RW); 1 at feeder Dec 28 (JV); 1-8 at feeder since Feb 27 Watertown (FC). Goldfinch: 13 Dec 11 (JV); 24 CC; 20 Feb 4 Henderson (LC). Red Crossbill: 1 at feeder Mar 20-25 eating sunflower seeds (JV). White-winged Crossbill: 2 (1 male 1 female) Jan 24 DH with Evening Grosbeaks (RW); 3 banded Jan 27 Henderson (LC); 3 (2 immature males 1 female) Mar 3 Black River Road (TC). Dark-eyed Junco: 4 all winter Watertown (R. Nelson); 7 CC. Tree Sparrow: 249 CC. White-throated Sparrow: 4 Jan 15 Watertown (D. Nagle). Song Sparrow: 2 Dec 28 present all winter feeder Massena (JV); 2 Mar 21 DH (RW). Lapland Longspur: 2 Dec 28 mixed with big flock of snow buntings (JV); 2 Feb 9 (RW); 1 Jan 21 with snow buntings (TC). Snow Bunting: regular all winter in good numbers; 600+ Jan 1 PP (TC) (NL).

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

Theodore D. Mack

This was another mild winter. December temperatures averaged 23.1 degrees and snow did not accumulate heavily. January had a reasonable mean temperature of 19.1 degrees and little snow accumulation. The wind seemed strong enough to blow the feathers off the chickadees on the 27th with gusts all day to 65 mph and gusts to 60 mph on much of the 31st. February gave a mean reading of 23.1 degrees with a low of minus 23 degrees on the 19th. March started out balmy and then became cold at the end of the month. Ten inches of snow on the 21st, 5 degrees on the 25th and 3 below on March 29th at Elizabethtown discouraged some birds. Geoffrey Carleton saw 125 geese honking and flying south on the fall route March 24 at noon.

Observers: JB–Jean Beck; GC–Geoffrey Carleton; ECBC–Essex County Christmas Bird Count centered at courthouse in E'town; FCBC–Essex County portion only of Ferrisburg, Vt. Christmas bird count; M & MG–Margaret and August Gabel; MK–Dr. Marguerite Kingsbury; TM–Ted Mack; NM–Norman Mason; RM–Ruth Meier; E & JP–Elizabeth and John Peterson; R & CW–Ruth and Carlin Walker.

Abbreviations: Es–Essex; E'town–Elizabethtown; L Cham–Lake Champlain; Mor–Moriah; PS–Paul Smith; Sch L–Schroon Lake; TL–Tupper Lake; Wes–Westport; Wil–Willsboro.

LOONS–DUCKS: Common Loon: 7 Dec 15 (FCBC); 1 Jan 13 Wes (JP); 1 Mar 15 Wes (JP). Horned Grebe: 11 Dec 15 (FCBC). Great Blue Heron: 1 Dec 3 Sch L (JB). Canada Goose: 40 Dec 24 Wes (JP); small flock Mar 6 Wes

(AG); 16 Mar 6 Wil (AG). Black Duck: max 43 Dec 15 (FCBC); all winter L Cham. Wood Duck: 1 male all winter Es (JP). Ring-necked Duck: 1 Jan 22-Feb 4 Es (JP). Common Goldeneye: max 69 Dec 15 (FCBC); 15 Mar 28 Raquette R, TL (MK). Oldsquaw: 10 Jan 3 NW Bay (JP); 2 Jan 14-24 Es (JP). White-winged Scoter: 10 Jan 12 Es (JP); 1 Jan 21-27 Es (JP). Hooded Merganser: 2 females Jan 20-Feb 1 Es (JP). Goshawk: 1 Dec 25 Lewis (EP); 1 getting a pheasant supper at a Wes feeder, no date (M&AG). Red-tailed Hawk: 1 Mar 27 Es (E&JP). Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Mar 31 Wes (GC). Rough-legged Hawk: several reported from L Cham area. Merlin: 1 seen 5 times since Mar 19 by a feeder at E'town, "classic look from below of the long pointed wings . . ., grayish-blue upperparts including upper side of tail" (GC). American Kestrel: 1 or 2 seen during winter with numbers increasing in late Mar. Killdeer: 2 Mar 3 Wes (AG); 2 Mar 5 Lake Placid (John Kruzan); 1 Mar 5 Wes (R&CW); 1 Mar 27 Es (JP). Great Black-backed Gull: max 3 Jan 19-26 Es (JP); 1 Mar 6 Es (JP). Ring-billed Gull: max 300 Mar 25 Es (JP). Bonaparte's Gull: 20 Dec 10 Wes (GC). Mourning Dove: seemed unusually common; 12 Jan 29 Wes (GC); 1 Feb 27 Mor (Margaret Vetter); 3 Mar 20 TL (RM); 1 all winter PS (Frances Peroni). Barred Owl: many reports. Saw-whet Owl: 1 photographed Mar 29 E'town (GC).

GOATSUCKERS–STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: 1 Dec 24 Wes (R&CW); 1 Jan 3 Es (JP). Common Flicker: 1 injured bird Dec 28 & 30 Wes (Freda Howard); 1 Mar 1 Es (JP). Pileated Woodpecker: many birds. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: first Mar 20 Wes (AG). No three-toed woodpeckers reported. Horned Lark: 12 Jan 14 Wes (NM); 3 Mar 3 Lake Clear (Louise Rutherford); 2 Mar 5 PS (TM). Common Raven: 2 all winter Cascade Lakes (Greenleaf T. Chase); 2 reported at Northway Exit 29 thru Jan (Ana Dumois) – no details but one reported last year by Major Day in same location. Black-capped Chickadee: max 420 Dec 29 (ECBC). Boreal Chickadee: several reports from usual locations. Tufted Titmouse: 1 Dec 15 (FCBC); 2 Feb 8 Wes (Norma & Fred Volckmann). Brown Creeper: 2 Dec 29 (ECBC); 1 Jan 12 Keene (E & JP); 1 at suet feeder Jan 21 Sch L (JB); numbers increased from Mar 2 on at PS. Carolina Wren: 1 at a Port Henry feeder thru winter (Elizabeth Sherlock & GC). American Robin: 1 Jan 12 Wes (GC); 1 Dec 30 at a Wes feeder (AG); 2 Mar 5 Wes (AG). Golden-crowned Kinglet: good numbers all winter. Northern Shrike: 7 reports of 1 each.

VIREOS–SPARROWS: Common Yellowthroat: 1 on a bitter cold day unable to fly Dec 18, found dead Dec 20 Mor (Helen Phinney). Eastern Meadowlark: 1 Mar 9 Wes (AG); 1 Mar 24 TL (RM). Red-winged Blackbird: 1 Feb 27 Olmstedville (Charles Kays); 2 Feb 27 Ticonderoga (Janet Cooper); numbers increased from Mar 6 on. Cardinal: 21 Dec 15 (FCBC); 5 Dec 29 (ECBC). Evening Grosbeak: to quote RM, "very erratic all winter"; up to 75 at some feeders. Purple Finch: 5 Dec 15 (FCBC); 1 Jan 24 Sch L JB); 1 Mar 1 Wes (AG); 1 Mar 1 Mor (NM). Pine Grosbeak: seemed to avoid our area this winter. Hoary Redpoll: 1 Feb 27 Mor light bird, white rump clearly visible (NM); 1 Mar 1-6 Es (JP); 2 Mar 15 on Es, birds photographed (E & JP); 1 Mar 22 Wil (GC & JP); 1 Mar 26-30 E'town, "real frosty all over, all white rump" (GC). Common Redpoll: first Jan 23 Mor (NM), after which numbers increased with most feeders having 25-250 by the middle of Mar. Pine Siskin: common at Sch L (JB), rather scarce elsewhere. American Goldfinch: several all winter L Cham area; only inland report 2 Mar 2 TL (RM). Red Crossbill: 10 Feb 1 E'town (GC); 7 Dec 29 (ECBC); 8 Mar 31 Es (E & JP). White-winged Crossbill: 3 Jan 26 Crown Point (Marjorie McIntyre); 3 Mar 9 Madawaska (TM); 1 Mar 24 TL (RM). Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 Jan 1 on Sch L (JB & Aletha Haley). White-throated Sparrow: 1 wintering bird at a feeder, good bird for here in winter, Indian Lake (Robert McKinney). Song Sparrow: first arrivals–Mar 20 Severance (Mildred Tyrrell); Mar

24 Saranac Lake (MK); Mar 24 TL (RM); Mar 25 PS (TM). Lapland Longspur: 1 Mar 22 Wil (GC & JP); 1 Mar 22 Es (JP); Mar 23 Es (JP). Snow Bunting: many, many reports.

P. O. Box 125, Paul Smiths, New York 12970

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD E. PHILION

This may have been a winter of discontent for many of us, but the weather provided much of the Northeast with a generally mild and snowfree landscape. December and January were each 1.7° above normal. A 61° on Dec 4th and 5th equalled records for those two days while a -13 on Dec 19th set a new record low for that date. As last year, most streams and at least portions of larger lakes and reservoirs were open till late December. Christmas count weather was generally moderate with little snow on the ground, yet half hardies were not especially well represented. The availability of open water during the CC period and the NYSWC in mid-January led to above average numbers of the more common waterfowl, but except for a late pair of Common Gallinule did not turn up anything very unusual. Flights of Canada Geese were still moving in late December.

February and March were slightly below the mean temperature but the average snowfall was 11 inches below normal. Ice went out of many lakes by March 7th, unusually early for Region 8.

Above average counts of Red-tailed Hawks and House Finches were noted as well as the modest advance of Red-headed Woodpeckers through the region. Winter finches in general were more scarce in early winter than late winter.

Notables for the period include a bald eagle, common gallinule, iceland gul and hoary redpoll.

Abbreviations: Col. Co.—Columbia County; L7—Lock 7 Mohawk River; LLO—Lake Lonely Outlet; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; SL—Saratoga Lake; SCR—Stoney Creek Reservoir; TR—Tomhannock Reservoir; VFWM—Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management.

Contributors: ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; DA—Doug Allen; B,H,S,—G. Bartlett, B. Havens, B. Sequin, T&AB—T&A. Brown; Cc's—Christmas Counts include Schenectady, Southern Renselaer, Troy and Columbia Co; JC—J. Cook; MF—M. French; M&AG—M&A. Gidding; WG—W. Gorman; MG—M. Gruett; HMBC—Hudson Mohawk Bird Club; PM—P. Mickle; NYSWC—New York Waterfowl Count; RP—R. Philion; BW—Beverly Waite; RPY—RP Yunick.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon 3 Dec 8 SL (B,H,S); fsm 1 Mar 3 SL (B,H,S). Pied-billed Grebe: 1 Dec 12 ADBC; fsm 1 Mar 9 TR (HMBC). Great Blue Heron: fsm 1 Mar 22 Mohawk (DA); 1 Mar 23 Lower Hudson (HMBC). Canada Goose: 50 Dec 8 SL (B,H,S); total of 238 from 3 CC reports; spring migration from Mar 3. Snow Goose: 30 Dec 24 E Greenbush (fide MG); 1 Dec 15 ADBC CC; 2 Mar 17 SL (B,H,S); 2 Mar 23 Lower Hudson (HMBC). Mallard: thru period; total of 802 from CC reports. Black Duck: thru period: total of 649 from CC reports up from 226 '73. Pintail: fsm 4 Mar 17 L7 (B,H,S). Green-winged Teal: fsm 30 Mar 23 Lower Hudson. Blue-winged Teal: 8 Jan 13 NYSWC (HMBC); fsm 4 Mar 24 NWW (BRS). American Wigeon 1 Jan 13 Fish Creek; fsm 2 Mar 17 Fish Creek (B,H,S,).Wod Duck: fsm 1 Mar 8 Col Co. (ADBC). Ring-necked Duck: fsm 1 Mar 8 Col Co. (ADBC). Ring-necked Duck: reported Dec 3 Chatham (MM); fsm 6 Mar 10 SCR (B,H,S); max 50 Mar 23 Lower Hudson (HMBC). Canvasback: 1 Feb 18 LLO; 30 Mar 25 SL (B,H,S). Lesser Scaup: 1 Dec 8 SL; 6 Jan 27 LLO 100 Dec 15 ADBC CC; 30 Jan 13 NYSWC

(HMBC). Common Goldeneye: Dec 8 SL; 3 Jan 13 NWSMC; 6 Jan 27 LLO (B,H,S); fsm 40 Mar 23 Lower Hudson (HMBC). Bufflehead: fsm 1 Mar 3 Upper Hudson, 1 Mar 17 L7; 4 Mar 31 (B,H,S). White-winged Scoter: 4 Dec 8 SL (B,H,S,). Black Scoter: 1 Dec 8 SL (B,H,S). Hooded Merganser: 4 Dec 8 SL; 1 Jan 13 & Feb 18 Fish Creek; max 30 Mar 31 Fish Creek (B,H,S). Common Merganser: 20 Dec 8 SL; Feb 10-18 Fish Creek; March 2 thru period (B,H,S). Red-breasted Merganser: Mar 10–Mar 21 SL (B,H,S).

HAWKS–OWLS: Turkey Vulture: fsm 1 Mar 28 Saratoga (RPY). Goshawk: about average reports; total of 4 from CC's; 1 Mar 31 L7 (B,H,S). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Jan 26 Col Co. (E. Mansell). Cooper's Hawk: 2 TCC; 1 Jan 6 pursuing siskins at feeder Schenectady (RPY). Red-tailed Hawk: numerous, total of 114 from CC's compared with 79 last year. Broad-winged Hawk: fsm 1 Mar 28 Hillsdale (N. Snare); 1 Mar 31 VFWM (B,H,S). Rough-legged Hawk: total of 3 from CC's vs 17 last year; 4 Jan 20 NYSC (HMBC). *BALD EAGLE*: an adult seen along the Hudson River on the TCC. Marsh Hawk: 1 Dec 12 ADBC; fsm 1 Mar 25 Castleton (JC) Kestrel: thru period; total of 54 from CC's up from 33 last year. Ruffed Grouse: average numbers. *COMMON GALLINULE*: a rare report in mid-winter, 2 Jan 13 HR (NYSWC). American Coot: fsm 1 Mar 31 LLO (B,H,S). Killdeer: most arrived in early March. American Woodcock: fsm 1 Mar 23 Altamont (BW). Common Snipe: 1 SCC; 1 Feb 3 Ghent (B&HG). *ICELAND GULL*: 1 Mar 31 SL (BHS). Great Black-backed Gull: 2 ADBC CC; fsm 3 Mar 10 NWW (B,H,S). Herring Gull: thru period; total of 281 from CC's vs 117 last year. Ring-billed Gull: thru period; 306 from CC's vs 136 in 73. Bonaparte's Gull: fsm 2 Mar 31 SL (B,H,S). Mourning Dove: 1192 on CC's exceeded last year's impressive total of 828. Great Horned Owl: 1 Jan 30 E Greenbush (WG); 4 on SRCC. Snowy Owl: 1 Dec 24 E Greenbush (MG); 1 Feb 8 Hudson (WG). Barred Owl: 1 Jan 13 NYSWC (HMBC). Saw-whet Owl: 1 heard early Mar Amsterdam (DA); 2 Mar 15 & 1 Mar 20 Malta (WG).

GOATSUCKERS–STARLINGS: Belted Kingfisher: thru period. Common Flicker: apparently few wintered, 1 SCC. *RED-HEADED WOODPECKER*: 1 SCC; 1 ADBC CC & thru period; 1 Dec 10 Mariaville; 1 thru Feb Mont. Co. (DA). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 Feb 3 an early arrival Chatham (PM). Eastern Phoebe: fsm 1 Mar 31 (B.H.S). Common Crow: totals doubled over last year's CC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: total of 33 vs 44 last year on CC's. Winter Wren: 1 SCC–thru Dec Ne Col Co. (R. Downe). Carolina Wren: 1 SCC. Mockingbird: numbers up from last year, total of 30 vs 20 on CC's. Robin: did not take advantage of the mild winter, 5 on CC's compared with 22 last year; fsm arr Mar 10. Hermit Thrush: 1 SRCC. Eastern Bluebird: 2 Dec 6 ne Col Co. (R. Drowne); 3 Jan 13 S Muetzeskill (ADBC); 1 Jan 10 Scotia (DA). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 SCC. Cedar Waxwing: scarce thru period, only 8 SRCC. Northern Shrike: 1 Dec 14 Chatham (M&AG); 2 on CC's; 1 Jan 27 SCR (B,H,S); 1 Mar 13 E Greenbush (RP). Loggerhead Shrike: 1 Jan 3 Waterford; 1 Jan 6 Watervliet Res &; Jan 31 RL (B,H,S)

VIREOS–SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: total of 13 from CC's; 5 Dec 28 Castleton (JC). Rusty Blackbird: 20 Dec 8 Hudson (T&A Brown). Brown-headed Cowbird: large flocks but localized, 575 SRCC & 355 ADBC CC. Cardinal: little change from last year. Evening Grosbeak: began arriving 2nd week of October but in much smaller flocks than previous years; total of 668 vs 1670 last year CC. Purple Finch: 34 on CC vs 74 last year. House Finch: stil increasing, 35 on CC's; 'very numerous in Nov & Dec, banded 56 in Nov, 68 in Dec with max 30 banded on 8 Dec; scarcer in mid-winter; (RPY). Pine Grosbeak: 1 SRCC vs total of 431 last year; 5 Dec 29 Castleton (JC). *HOARY REDPOLL*: 1 Apr 8 Mariaville (DA); '1 banded in yard Mar 3, & Mar 9 with stubby bills and un-

streaked rumps – a third specimen banded Mar 9 was a hybrid Hoary/Common' (RPY). Common Redpoll: 6 SRCC becoming more abundant in late winter. Pine Siskin: 'a modest invasion at Jenny Lake in Dec & Feb' (RPY): generally scarce elsewhere. American Goldfinch: slightly better than last year's CC total but became scarce in mid & late winter. Red Crossbill: 2 SRCC. White-winged Crossbill: more widely reported than previous years; 6 TCC; 1 Jan 17-20 Loudonville (MF); 1 Jan 26 Mariaville (DA); 1 Mar 23 Castleton (JC). Rufous-sided Towhee: 2 SCC. Dark-eyed Junco: numerous in Feb and March. Tree Sparrow: total of 1388 from CC's compared with 985 last year. Chipping Sparrow: 1 Jan 1 Col Co (E. Mansell). White-throated Sparrow: few wintered; total of 13 from CC's vs 72 last year. Fox Sparrow: 1 Mar 19 ADBC; 1 Mar 24 (VFWM) (B,H,S). Song Sparrow: 73 from CC's compared with 84 last year. Snow Bunting: max 355 SRCC.

Please direct all future reports to our new records chairwoman Gladys Snell, 151 N. Toll, Scotia, N.Y.

Edgewood Dr., Averill Park, N.Y.

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Temperatures for Dec and Jan were slightly above average, but Feb was colder than usual. March was cool throughout. There were almost no below zero days for the whole season. Most large bodies of water did not freeze until well after Christmas counts, and were open again by the end of Feb. Snows were infrequent, and most precipitation came as rain. Over nine inches in Dec; 3.35 inches for Jan; 3.40 inches for Feb; 5.30 inches for March (all records Ulster Co.). The early thaw brought water-fowl thru the region quite early in March. There were no spectacular movements, and many species went almost unreported. The mild winter caused many species to linger into the season. Northern visitors were generally sparse and not impressive. Redpolls and Siskins were an exception and did make a good showing. They were not widespread, but locally good at certain feeders. Resident species held near normal.

Observers cited: AA—Anthony Amos; MB—Martin Borko; NC—Noel Cutright; TH—Thelma Haight; CH—Charles Hills; FH—Fred Hough; PJ—Paul Jeheber; AJ—Alice Jones; JMK—Jim and Mary Key; EK—Eric Kiviat; ABM—Al and Barbara Merritt; KR—Kate Redmond; FAR—Forrest and Aline Romero; ES—Eric Single; WTS—William and Trixie Strauss; CT—Czecher Terhune; EDT—Edward D. Treacy; JT—John Tripp; MVW—Marion VanWagner.

Abbreviations: First four or five letters of each county; BMCC—Bear Mountain Christmas Count, Dec 30; FWC—Federation Waterfowl Count, mid—Jan; MCC—E. A. Mearns Bird Club Christmas Count in E. Orange Co., Dec 22; RCC—Rockland Audubon Soc. Christmas Count, Dec 16; SCC—Sullivan Audubon Soc Christmas Count, Dec 27; WCC—R. T. Waterman Bird Club Christmas Count in W. Dutchess Co. Dec 29.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: only report, 1 Dec 29 Ashokan Res. Red-throated Loon: first time on MCC, 1 Hudson R at West Point (PJ,EDT). Horned Grebe: first time on MCC; 1 Jan 15-19 Wurtsboro was the only other winter report; usual Mar migrants did not materialize, probably went thru quickly with open water farther north. Great Blue Heron: very few winter reports; 5 or 6 at Tamarack Sw from Mar 19 on. American Bittern: 1 Dec 4 near Cruger's Is. (EK). Mute Swan: continues to inc in area and has finally spread northward with nesting on Garrison's Pd, Fort Montgomery at the end of Mar; 9 on BMCC; 31 on RCC. *WHISTLING SWAN*: 1 Mar 23-25, Traver Marsh, Dutch (FAR). Canada Goose:

remained in excel nos until Jan freeze; returned in good numbers in Mar and Apr; almost every pond in the Highlands has a nesting pr or more at end of period. Snow Goose: 1 Dec 16 near Amenia (WTS). Mallard and Black Duck: up 3 or 4 times their usual nos on most Christmas counts. Gadwall: 4 on RCC at Rockland L, second time in 27 years for that count. Pintail: more than ever before; 9 on FWC was 3 x previous max; 30 on SCC which usually turns up none or possibly 1 or 2; 28 Mar 5 at Briarcliff Farm Dutch; 27 Mar 20. at 6½ Station Rd., Goshen (JT). Green-winged Teal: 4 Dec 4 Dieterich Pd, Dutch (MVW); 1 Jan 13 near Cuddebackville (JT); March movement was poor. Blue-winged Teal: 1 Dec 4 near Crugers Is (EK). American Wigeon: 3 Dec 1 Dutch; 19 thru Dec 16 Amenia (WTS); 77 on RCC. Wood Duck: more than usual; 10 Dec 27 Lamont Geo Obs near Nyack (AA); 16 Mar 20 at 6½ Station Rd, Goshen (JT). *REDHEAD*: 1 Sylvan L, Dutch was first record for WCC, remained thru Jan 7 (MVW). Ring-necked Duck: max 80 aJn 1 Bog Brook Res, Town of Southeast; Mar movements were small and unimpressive. Canvasback: unreported for the 4th time in 20 yrs on FWC; Mar numbers excellent with 800 Mar 10 Vanderburgh Cove and 600 Mar 15 Ulster Park, probably the same birds. Common Goldeneye: 83 on SCC was excellent; very poor elsewhere. Oldsquaw: 1 MCC Dec 22, Cornwall Bay (PJ,EDT); 35 on SCC has to be some kind of record for area and season. Ruddy Duck: RCC had 163, the highest number since 1966. Hooded Merganser: SCC produced 91, another record for season and location; Mar movements were poor; 13 Jan 1 Putman L. (CH) Common Merganser: max 35 Mar 27 Dutch.

HAWKS–OWLS: Turkey Vulture: several unusual winter reports, 3 Jan and 7 Feb all Dutch, first migrants last week of Feb Bear Mt St Pk, about 2 weeks early. Goshawk: all records Dutch; 1 Dec 16 Pokeepsie; 3 late Feb and 1 Mar 10. Sharp-shinned Hawk: more than usual; sev in Dutch thru season and 1 at Monticello. Cooper's Hawk: 2 reports, 1 thru Dec near Amenia, obs on Dec 22 eating Mourning Dove; 1 Jan 13 near Wurtsboro. Red-tailed Hawk: good numbers thru season; obs nesting in March in Dutch. Red-shouldered Hawk: more than usual; 1 Dec 24 Rock; 1 Dec 29 High Falls; 1 Mar 5 Middletown; 1 Mar 10 Goshen; 1 Feb 15 Dutch. Rough-legged Hawk: fewer than usual but scattered thru region and season. Bald Eagle: 1 Dec 27 Vassar Coll; max 11 (5 ad & 6 imm) on SCC, highest count in State for last 10 years. Marsh Hawk: a few more than usual. *MERLIN*: 2 reports both by excellent observers: 1 Dec 28 Tallman Mt, Rock (AA); 1 Jan 14 Red Oak Mill (JMK). Bobwhite: continues to hang on; 2 males and 5 females Feb 23 Stissing Mt Rd, Dutch. Turkey: max 11 Feb 17 near Monticello. Clapper Rail: 1 first time on RCC at Piermont Pier (AA,ES). Virginia Rail: more than usual; 1 on RCC for 3rd time at West Nyack Dump (ES); 2 or 3 Dec 23 at Thompson Pd, Dutch (EK); observed there again Jan 7. Coot: numbers very low; 1 Mar 25 Tamarack Sw, Dutch. Killdeer: sev thru season in Dutch; good Mar movements reported, over 50 in Dutch; Ulster had its first winter record with 3 Dec 29 near Stone Ridge (NC,KR). Woodcock: 1 second week of Jan near Red Hook; max 8 Mar 27 Canoe Hill (FAR). Common Snipe: 4 on RCC at Piermont Pier (AA,ES); Mar numbers good thru region. Great Black-backed Gull: better numbers than usual on upper Hudson R; RCC reported 81, about 2 x the previous high. Herring Gull: a new high for RCC, 1,969, 20 years ago they averaged 400 to 600. Ring-billed Gull: 920 on RCC their highest ever. Laughing Gull: 2 Jan 13 at Piermont Pier (ES). Bonaparte's Gull: 30 Dec 23 Piermont Pier (AA); 3 Mar 24 Bashakill (MB). Mourning Dove: 586 on RCC, highest by margin of 100; more than 200 reported from Dutch in Mar (AJ); at least 3 nesting reports that month. Owls: most resident species normal. Snowy Owl: 1 Jan 11 and again Jan 17 at Sterling Forest (Lee H Deed); 1 Jan 13 west of Liberty (AJ); 1 Feb 7 Circleville (JT). Short-eared Owl: 1 Jan 13 Piermont Pier (ES).

GOATSUCKERS–STARLING: Common Flicker: 3 or 4 all season at feeders in Dutch; 1 in Orange. Red-bellied Woorpecker: 1 in Dutch and another in Rock thru season; 1 Dec 29 Tallman Mt, Rock (AA); 3 on RCC in the New City area; 1 BMCC. Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 daily in Dec at feeder in P'kpsie except when needed for the Christmas Count (AJ); 1st winter record for Ulst, 1 Dec 29 near Lamontville (Ruth Craig & Al Brayton). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 on RCC near New City; 1 Jan 20 near Staatsburg (AJ); 1 Feb 5 Cornwall-on-Hudson (A,BM. Phoebe: arr Mar 23 in Dutch and Mar 24 in Ulst. Horned Lark: good numbers all season in farm country. Tree Swallow: 10 Mar 20 Bashakill (MB); 2 Mar 25 Beaverdam on Shunpike, Dutch (FAR). Common Crow: only 502 on RCC; low; about 2,500 wintered at Hudson River State Hospital, less than former years, this latter group down to 400 at the end of period. (AJ). Fish Crow: 4 Jan records in Dutch, most at Hudson R St Hosp; 10 reported dur Mar at P'kpsie and along Hudson R in Dutch. Red-breasted Nuthatch: many reports from all parts of region thru season. Brown Creeper: 4 regularly thru Dec in Dutch. Winter Wren: usual few reports. Carolina Wren: wintered in reduced numbers, but made it thru season. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 1 on RCC at West Nyack Dump, 1st time on that count away from the Hudson R; 1 Dec 4 near Crugar's Is. (EK). Mockingbird: 46 on WCC was excellent; 49 on RCC broke previous record. Brown Thrasher: more reports than usual. Robin: usual winter numbers; exc migration by the last week of March. Hermit Thrush: 1 Jan 10 Dover Furnace (Jim & Bonnie Fiedler); 1 Jan 3 Cornwall-on-Hudson (ABM); 1 dur Jan near Kripplebush (FH); 7 on RCC tied 1950 record high. Bluebird; 4 on WCC at Clove Valley was the first time that count in 3 years; not reported elsewhere until late Mar. Golden-crowned Kinglet: exc numbers thru region all season; RCC had 41, tieing 1952 record. Water Pipit: only report Mar 18 Bashakill. Northern Shrike: a few more than usual; 1 on WCC for 4th time; 1 Jan 2 Sharon Station (WTS); 1 Mar 2 Pleasant Valley (FAR). Loggerhead Shrike: about the same abundance at Northern Shrike; 1 Jan 1 Pawling (CH); 1 Jan 15 Middletown; 1 Feb 5 Middletown (JT).

VIREOS–SPARROWS: Yellow-rumped Warbler: the usual few winter reports; 1 Dec 22 Dutch (MJK); 1 Jan 2 Salt Point (MVW); an unusual number of 17 Jan 1 at Southeast (CH). House Sparrow: continues downward trend; 523 on RCC was half the max of 1,293 in 1963. Red-winged Blackbird: wintered in good numbers with usual good movements in March; max 3,000 Mar 25 (FAR). Northern Oriole: 1 Dec 17 Dutch (CT); thru season at Middletown feeder. Rusty Blackbird: higher numbers than usual esp in Dutch. Common Grackle; reported from several locations on Feb 23, appears to favor this arr date most years. Cowbird: every month; max 300 Mar 25 Standfordville (FAR). Cardinal: numbers down to 96 on WCC from high of 162 in 1969. *DICKCISSEL:* only report, 1 Jan 6 near Dutchess Hill (AJ). Evening Grosbeak: fall numbers were exc, but dropped off in Dec to a very few local birds; no real northern movement at end of period. Purple Finch: numbers low but holding. House Finch: outnumbered Purple Finch by far on all Christmas Counts; 79 on RCC was 10 x the number of Purples; 68 on WCC, first reported that count in 1965. Pine Grosbeak: unreported. *HOARY REDPOLL*: 1 feeding with about 80 Common Redpolls at the feeder of John Tripp in Circleville, remained there from Feb 24 to mid-Apr, observed by Libby Van Etten, who with Mr. Tripp had studied a bird of this species at a feeder in Rockport, Mass in mid- Feb, bird was observed as close as four feet and all field marks noted. Common Redpoll: many feeder reports, rarely noted in the field; appeared in late Jan-early Feb and remained thru rest of period. Pine Siskin: excellent numbers at feeders; max 68 Jan 26 Circleville (JT). American Goldfinch: lower than usual; only 66 on RCC where 466 were reported last year. Red Crossbill: reported in Carmel last 2 weeks of Mar; a few in Ulst dur early part of

season; unreported elsewhere. White-winged Crossbill: many reports from all areas of region, most of single or only a few. Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 Dec 29 near New Paltz. Savannah Sparrow: 3 Feb 6 Salt Point (MVW); 25 on RCC, all at Piermont Pier. White-crowned Sparrow: 2 at feeder of WTS in Amenia thru Jan; 3 on RCC at New City (James Bloor), 7th time on that count; 3 on MCC. Fox Sparrow: 1 Feb 23 Pleasant Valley; a very poor showing dur Mar for the second year in a row. Swamp Sparrow: 1 thru season at Stissing (TH). Snow Bunting: usual few winter birds; max 20-60 month of Jan in vic of Gretna Rd, Dutch.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

FALL REPORT RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR JANUARY ISSUE

REGION 10 — MARINE

Hugh D. McGuinness

September and the first half of October were mild in Region 10, as the weather was dominated by a series of slow, easterly-moving, high pressure systems. The acompanying light winds were almost invariably from the northwest, and often petered out leaving the region stagnant and unseasonably warm. Without chilly nights the fall migration began quietly, and early migrants seemed to trickle through our area. However, during the closing of October and the first three weeks of November the nights became cold, and the northwest winds howled at 20-40 mph. During these bitter days great throngs of wind-drifted migrants were seen along the coast with most spectacular flights of cowbirds, graackles, blackbirds, and finches.

Perhaps the most surprising flight of this period was that of the Red Crossbill. Crossbill incursions of the past have often been betrayed by exceptionally early arrivals. This year there were no early reports. Instead, hordes of Red Crossbills staged an abrupt and brief appearance. Arriving on Oct 27, they reached their peak on Nov 6, and — with the exception of a few small flocks — had moved through our area by Thanksgiving. Data pertaining to the numbers of crossbills in previous incursions is lacking, however; the 1900+ recorded on Nov 6 is a new maxima for the region, and indicates that the movement must be one of the most massive ever recorded.

Record numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpiper highlighted the early fall. On Aug 24, 25 were found on a farm field at Halsey Lane, Bridgehampton. Over the next two weeks the numbers diminished, and the birds disappeared. A larger flock of 55 to 75 birds was found a few miles to the east at Sagaponack on Sept 9 (entirely new flock? — ed.). Numbers slowly decreased, and 20 seen on Sept 22 was the last report received.

The potato beetle, *Lepitnotarsa decemlineata,* seems to have been the food source responsible for the lengthy stay of the Buff-breasts. Abundant in the potato fields, the beetles were uprooted from their plants during plowing, and remained plentiful for only a few days after the harvest. At Halsey Lane the field was plowed on the last two days of August, and within a week the Buff-breasts had disappeared. The fields at Sagaponack were never plowed, but both the birds and the beetles were gone by early October. The correlation between the insects and the birds is further evidenced, since the Buff-breasts were never never seen in fields laying fallow or replanted with winter rye.

Other birds more common than usual this season were: Cattle Egret; Stilt Sandpiper; Wilson's Phalarope; Laughing Gull; Red-headed Woodpecker; Pine

Siskin; Purple Finch; and White-crowned Sparrow. Less common: Cooper's Hawk; Forester's Tern; Black Tern; Brown Creeper; Red-breasted Nuthatch; and Black-throated Green Warbler.

Rare birds included in this report are. Fulmar; Leach's Storm-Petrel; Golden Eagle; Avocet; Chuck-Will's-Widow; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher; Yellow-headed Blackbird; Clay-colored Sparrow; and Harris' Sparrow.

Abbreviations: CRSP—Connetquot River State Park; CP—Central Park; DPt—Democrat Point, F.I.; FIL—Fire Island Lighthouse; GB—Gilgo Beach; GGI—Great Gull Island; JB—Jones Beach; JBWR— Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; MP—Montauk Point; OB—Oak Beach; RiP—Riis Park; TPS—Tobay Pond Sanctuary.

Observers frequently cited: JA—James Ash; WB—Wilma Baumann; JB—John Black PAB—Paul A. Buckley; THD—Thomas H. Davis; DWF—Davis W. Finch; DBF—Darrel B. Ford; RG—Robert Giffen; RH—Robert Hines; HH—Helen Hirschbein; MK—Michel Kleinbaum; AL—Anthony Lauro; LL—Legs Lehman; EL—Emmanuel Levine; HM—Hugh McGuinness; RP—Roger Pasquier; ROP—Robert O. Paxton; PP—Peter Polsek; DP—Dennis Puleston, GSR—Gilbert S. Raynor; GR—George Rose; LJS—Lore J. Schore; RWS—Robert W. Smart; BW—Berna Weissman; M(any) OB(servers).

PELAGIC TRIPS: Cox's Ledge, a marine formation lying 40 miles ESE of Montauk Point was visited five times this fall on: Aug 25 (H. Axtell, D. Edwards, J. Machado, et al); Sept 2 (THD, S. Keith, HM, RWS, J. Tucker); Sept 16 (THD, DWF, RWS, et al); Sept 22 (PA, RH); Oct 6 (THD, RH, HM, PP, et al).

Table 1 — Results of Cox's Ledge Trips.

	Aug 25	Sept 2	Sept 16	Sept 22	Oct 6
FULMAR			1		
Cory's Shearwater	100	35	35	1	9
Greater Shearwater	100		350	5	15
Manx	1			1	
Leach's Storm-petrel	2				
Wilson's Storm-petrel	230+	400	60	15	
Gannett				1	2
Red Phalarope		23		5	12
Northern Phalarope		15		1	22
Pomarine Jaeger	2	4	35	10	6
Parasitic Jaeger			14	6	
Uni. Jaeger			2	1	
Black-legged Kittiwake	1		1		

The *FULMAR*, a light phased individual, passed off the stern of the boat, coming as close as 75-100 yards. This was only the fourth record for Region 10. *LEACH'S STORM-PETREL* is always rare, and were the only neports for 1973. The Kittiwakes seen on Aug 25 and Sept 16 were the earliest regional records by 26 and 4 days respectivtly. The 51 Jaegers seen on Sept 16 in every conceivable plummage was a high count. With two reports, Manx Shearwater is proving to be a regular visitor at this location each fall.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: Nov 19 through period Sore Thumb THD, PP). Great Cormorant: Sep 21 JBWR (DWF); Sep 22 FIL (THD et al); (9 Sep 26 DPt (HM, ROP)-there was one Double-crested in the flock; all three reports are very early being rare before late Oct. Double-crested Cormorant: one imm through period at JBWR. Cattle Egret: "seen all summer at JBWR flying to

roost" (JA) - max 59 Sep 26 (HM, ROP); Great Egret through period at JBWR. Snowy Egret: through period at JBWR and JB. Little Blue Heron; max 35 Sep reports all white immatures. Glossy Ibis: through late Nov at JBWR.

Whistling Swan: 3 Nov 24 Hook Pond (LL, HM, BW); 7 Nov 24 RiP (GR); 11 Nov 25 Hook Pd (R. Viet). Snow Goose: blue phase; 40 Oct 6 Point-O-Woods Fire Island (S. Hopkins)-two flocks; 14 Oct 16 JB (LJS)-two flocks; both numbers excellent, the former being unprecedented. European Wigeon: Nov 25 Hook Pd (R. Viet). Canvasback: male Sep 17-19 JBWR (JA, HM, ROP); earliest record by 11 days. Oldsquaw: Oct 18 Fire Island (WB, LJS); early. Harlequin Duck: 3 Nov 3 MP (JA, RH); seasons only report. Common Eider: Sep 15-22 DPt (THD, AL et al)-bird summered at this location; arr. Oct 30 MP (JA, RH); also at MP 8 Nov 3; 300 Nov 24. King Eider: Sep 26 DPt (HM, ROP); previous early date Sep 30, however it is impossible to determine whether this bird was a migrant or a summer vagrant; Nov 11 through period Sore Thumb (THD, AL, PP)-possibly the Sep. bird; 3 Nov 17 MP (GSR); also MP 3 Nov 24; 4 Nov 25. Common Merganser: arr Nov 17 JBWR (HM); 2 Nov 22 through period JBWR (THD); uncommon on Long Island.

HAWKS—OWLS: Hawk flights in Region 10 generally occur along the barrier beaches during northwest winds. Lehman reports a similar phenomena, of hawks using the coastline to guide themselves southward, in Larchmont located on the northwestern side of Long Island Sound. Turkey Vulture: Sep 16 JB (AL)-very rare on Long Island; Nov 4&10 Larchmont (LL et al). Goshawk: A substantial number of reports from the coast reflected the high numbers recorded inland; for the second straight year, Goshawk, normally rare in fall, was reported throughout the region; arr Nov 3 Lawrence (M. Horowitz); LL reports 8 in Larchmont in six days of watching during Nov with max 5 Nov 10; most reports between Nov 3 and 19 with only a few lingering; 2 through period JBWR. Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 26 Sep 28 Fire I (EL); 21 Sep 28 RiP (HM). Cooper's Hawk: generally unreported; LL had 1 in Larchmont (Oct 13) in eleven days of watching; 4 Sep 28 Fire I (EL); 4 Sep 28 RiP (HM). Red-tailed Hawk; max 68 Nov 11 Larchmont (LL). Red-shouldered Hawk: Sep 28 RiP (HM)-very rare on coast; max 14 Nov 11, 12 Nov 17 Larchmont (LL)-seasons total at Larchmont 47, which is outstanding for our area. Rough-legged Hawk: Nov 12 TPS (WB, LJS)-only report. *GOLDEN EAGLE*: adult Nov 3 Larchmont (LL). Bald Eagle: Nov 17 Hither Hills (JB). Osprey: max 39 Sep 28 RiP (HM); RG reports a rather late nesting attempt at CRSP. The nest was discovered by Gil Bergen on Aug 24, and was almost complete at that time. Both parents continued work until Sep 9, and remained in the park until late Oct. DP termed this a frustration nest, a nest built after a previously unsuccessful attempt; this is the most western nesting by Ospreys on Long I in recent years. Peregrine Falcon: seems to be holding steady numbers over last few years; max 6 Oct 5 Quogue Wildlife Refuge (C. Helms). Merlin: 34 Sep 28 Fire I (EL) 29 Sep 28 RiP (HM). American Kestrel: 425 Sep 28 Fire I (EL); 308 Sep RiP (HM).

Semipalmated Plover: dep Nov 22 JBWR (THD etal). Golden Plover: 300 Sep 10 Sagaponack (PAB, C. McKeever, GSR). Spotted Sandpiper: Nov 18-24 Montauk (GSR). Baird's Sandpiper: Sep 8 JBWR (RH); Nov 23 Sagaponack (PAB, ROP)-one of the latest records, this bird was reported to have an injured leg. Stilt Sandpiper: high numbers in general this fall; 110 Aug 10 OB (PAB, ROP); 40 Sep 17 JBWR (DWF, HM); Nov 7 TPS (HM, ROP). *BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER*: arr 25 Aug 24 Water Mill (D. Clem et al); also at this location 16 Sep 1, 20 Sep 10 (PAB, C McKeever, GSR); also at Sag 50 Sep 15; 30 Sep 16; 20 Sep 22; only other reports were at JBWR Sep 3 (E&L Mills); Sep 12-13 (mob). Marbled Godwit: Sep 7 JBWR (LL) Oct 21 JBWR (E. Treacy). Hudsonian Godwit; numbers down from last year; sporadic at JBWR whereas in previous falls

it had become quite regular; 2 Sep 29 JBWR (mob); Oct 22 JBWR (E. Treacy). *AVOCET*: Sep 19-26, Oct, 10-14 JBWR (JA, HM, ROP). Wilson's Phalarope: extraordinary numbers throughout the northeast; 10 Aug 10 OB PAB, ROP); 2 Aug 19-26 JBWR (mob); Sep 9 JBWR (H. Wellander); Sep 15-19 JBWR (mob).

Pomarine Jaeger: max 25 Oct 2 DPt (PAB); Nov 10, 11 GGI (DWF, H. Hays, R. E. Harrison). Parasitic Jaeger: max 25 Oct 2 DPt (PAB); Nov 10 GGI (DWF). Glaucous Gull: second year bird Sep 7 through period JBWR (MK). Laughing Gull: 800 Oct 27 GGI (DWF); 1000+ Nov 3 MP (JA, RH); 600 Nov 10 GGI (DWF)-70% yearlings; high-numbers for such late dates; through period at many places including MP, DPt, JBWR. Common Tern: 45 Nov 3 Montauk Harbor (JA, RH); 6 Nov 24 Montauk Harbor (LL, HM, BW); very late for so many. Royal Tern: arr 3 Aug 3 Shinnecock (GSR); max 32 Oct 7 Shinnecock (THD et al). Caspian Tern: Sep 15 DPt (AL); 2 Sep 29 RiP (JA, RH); Oct 14 DPt (AL); 3 Oct 27 Jones Inlet ((LL et al)-late. Dovekie: Nov 17 MP (JB)-only alcid this period. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Oct 30 RiP (HM)-late. Snowy Owl: Nov 17 Montauk (JB)-only report. Barred Owl: mid Oct through period Bronx Park. Saw-whet Owl: Sep 30 Greenwich Village (R. Holt et al)-early.

GOATSUCKERS–STARLINGS: *CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW*: found dead and badly decomposed on road Nov 18 Cedar Beach (D. Ewert, M. Gochfeld, MK)-bill and wing saved from which the species was determined; the bird had been dead about 5-6 weeks, making this the first fall record, Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Nov 23 Larchmont (S. Berliner)-latest record by 13 days. Red-headed Woodpecker: the number of reports may indicate an optimistic future for this bird in Region 10. Recorded almost every day of Oct, with some staying through period at feeders. arr Sep 9 FIL (HM et al); max 2 Oct 18 JB, FI (MB, LJS). Western Kingbird: 5 individuals reported; dates from Sep 13 through period. *SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER*s Oct 24-25 Yaphank (GSR). Barn Swallow: Nov 3 MP (JA, RH); 4 Nov 4 Larchmont (LL)-late. House Wren: Nov 17 RiP (HM). American Robin: 5000+ Oct 27 FIL (THD et al); 4800 Nov 10 RiP (JA, RH). Wood Thrush: Nov 4 CP (RP). Water Pipit: 2 Sep 15 Sagaponack (THD, DWF, RWS et al)-early. Northern Shrike: Nov 24 Montauk (GSR)-only report. Loggerhead Shrike: Aug 27 Sagaponack (B. Spencer); Sep 13 GB (ROP); Sep 29 RiP (E. Daly; Oct 20 Mecox (JA).

VIREOS–WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: Oct 4 FIL (HM, ROP). Red-eyed Vireo: Nov 10 FIL (DBF)-late. Golden-winged Warbler: Aug 17 Commack (RG)-rare on Long I, especially in fall. Tenessee Warbler: 2 Oct 27 FIL (THD et al)-late. Orange-crowned Warbler: 10 individuals reported; arr Sep 8 Sagaponack (AL)-very early; 8 reported between Oct 21-28 with max 3 Oct 21 TPS (AL). Parula Warbler: Nov 10 Montauk (M. V. Barnhill). Yellow Warbler: Oct 7 Montauk (HM). Magnolia Warbler: Oct 27 FIL (THD et al). Cape May Warbler: this bird continues its increase as a migrant in Region 10. There are no numbers available, but it was reported that on one day in late Sep the banding station at FIL netted over 100 of these birds. Yellow-throated Warbler: Sep 27 GB (ROP)-very rare in fall. Chestnut-sided Warbler: Oct 27 FIL (DBF). Pine Warbler: 5 Sep 29 FIL (DBF) very high for so late. Louisiana Waterthrush: Aug 16 Manorville (GSR)-rare on L.I. Kentucky Warbler: Sep 7 TPS (R. Kelly); Sep 30 TPS (AL). Connecticut Warbler: 4 reports Sep 13-29 3 at FiL 1 at RiP. Mourning Warbler: max 3 Sep 9 FIL (THD et al). Yellow-breasted Chat: 10 individuals from Sep 12-Nov 11; max 3 Oct FIL (HM, ROP). Hooded Warbler: Aug 25-Sep 7 JBWR (RH, LL, GR). Wilson's Warbler: Nov 3 CP (RP) Nov 10 Montauk (M. V. Barnhill);. Canada Warbler: Oct 4 FIL (HM, ROP).

BLACKBIRDS–SPARROWS: *YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD*: Sep 15-17 Lawrence (HH). Red-winged Blackbird: 28,000 Nov 10 RiP (JA, RH). Orchard

Oriole: often unrecorded in fall, for the second time an immature male has been observed at an extremely late date; previous record Nov 20-Dec 11 1966 RiP; this year imm male Nov 24 RiP (M. Sohmer). Cowbird: 19,000 Nov 10 RiP (JA, RH). Scarlet Tanager: 2 Oct 27 FIL, JB (DBF, LL).

Blue Grosbeak: 9 individuals reported from Sep 15-Nov 11 North Hills (A. Summers); max 2 Oct 5 Larchmont (LL). Dickcissel: continues to prove itself to be a regular migrant on the outer beaches in Sep and Oct; max 8 Oct 4 FIL (HM, ROP); 5 Oct 18 JB, FIL (WB, LJS). Evening Grosbeak: arr 60 Nov 4 Larchmont (LL); not reaching the outer beaches until 8 Nov 10 RiP (JA, RH); 5 Nov 10 DPt (THD, AL); coastal max 11 Nov 17 RiP (HM). Purple Finch: exceptional flight both inland and on coast; 400 each day Nov 3, 4 Larchmont (LL) compared to 40 each day Nov 3,4 RiP (JA, RH, HM); 200+ Nov 6 RiP (THD, HM et al); 250 Nov 10 RiP (JA, RH); 250+ Nov 11 RiP (JA, HM); 600 Nov 17 RiP (HM)—highest regional maxima. Common Redpoll: 15 Oct 27 Commack (RG)-only report. Pine Siskin: excellent flight; arr 18 Oct 6 Cox's Ledge (THD et al); 12 Oct 7 MP (THD et al); peaking second week of Oct; 800 Oct 10 FIL (HM, ROP, PP); 1100+ Oct 17 FIL (HM, ROP); numbers dwindling until early Nov; 100 Oct 24 FIL (HM, ROP); 500+ Oct 27 FIL (THD, HM, PP); 800 Nov 3 RiP (HM, GR) 700+ Nov 6 RiP (THD, HM et al); 880 Nov 7 FIL (HM, ROP); numbers decreased rapidly, and during the last week of Nov only a few flocks remained. American Goldfinch: no great numbers until after first freezing spell in late Oct; 600 Nov 3 Larchmont (LL); 665 Nov 7 FIL (HM, ROP). Red Crossbill: arr Oct 27 FIL (PAB); 20 Oct 27 JBWR (RP); 25+ Oct 28 RiP (JA); 60+ Oct 30 RiP (HM); 85+ Nov 3 RiP (HM, GR); 150+ Nov 4 RiP (JA, RH); 600 Nov 5 E Patchogue (C. Tveekrem); 1900+ Nov 6 RiP (JA, THD, RH, HM, GR); 760 Nov 7 FIL (HM, ROP); 500 Nov 10 RiP (JA, RH); 300 Nov 10 FIL (THD); 350 Nov 11 RiP (JA, HM); 400 Nov 18 JB; only a few scattered flocks after Thanksgiving. White-winged Crossbill: arr 4 Nov 11 FIL (DBF et al); 2 Nov 22 Manhasset (HM).

Savannah Sparrow: Ipswich race; arr Oct 28 GGI (DWF); Henslow's Sparrow: Oct 27 RiP (JA, RH, GR)-very rare in area. Lark Sparrow: 4 individuals from Sep 8-Oct 22. Tree Sparrow: Oct 9 OB (M. Brown, W. Post)-mistnetted, earliest record by 1 day. *CLAY-COLORED SPARROW*: Oct 1 RiP (HM). HARRIS' SPARROW: imm Oct 22 TPS (LJS). White-crowned Sparrow: above normal numbers; during the first three weeks of Oct it was not unusual to see up to 40 in a day: max 100+ Oct 20 Montauk (JA).

Winter Reports Due Apr 1
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BOOK REVIEW

The Indigo Bunting: A Memoir of Edna St. Vincent Millay. By Vincent Sheean. (Schocken Books, 131 pp., $2.95). This is a remarkably comprehensive little book because it not only discusses birds in the life and work of a significant American poet, but presents an overview of birds in Romantic and Elizabethan poetry and even speculates on the archetypal reasons why people become birders.

Millay was a birder. Her worn 1925 edition of Chester A. Reed's *Bird Guide: Land Birds East of the Rockies* was crammed with her notes about birds arriving and pouring out songs. She could identify about 45 species by song which is respectable for someone concentrating on birds around the house as Millay did at the home she called "Steepletop" in Austerlitz, New York. The on-going feeder outside the living room window kept birds of every season close to her life.

All this is described by her friend, a journalist who is known for his books about India, Gandhi and Nehru. In fact, Sheean recalls in the memoir his telling the poet that she could have been an indigo bunting in a previous existence if the Hindu belief in reincarnation were valid. This occurred during a visit to "Steepletop" where she revealed so much joy showing him a cautious acting bunting banqueting at the feeder. This species figures in what is thought to be one of the last fragments – perhaps the very last – that she wrote before being found dead on the stairs at "Steepletop" in 1950.

"Never before, perhaps, was such a sight –
Only one sky (my breath!) and all that blue –
Lepis, and Sèvres. and borage – every hue.
If blue-jay – indigo bunting – bluebird's flight."

Her first poem, made up when she was five or six, is about birds. "Through the intervening years the appeal to these creatures as a sort of kindred is almost incessant," Sheean says as he explores how often they appear and move throughout her poetry. For example, in a sonnet from the volume entitled *Fatal Interview*, Millay uses the image of a wounded bird to express the broken, hurt feelings she had endured over sensual love that could not be sustained.

"O ailing Love, compose your struggling wing!
Confess you mortal; be content to die.
How better dead, than be this awkward thing
Dragging in dust its feathers of the sky. . . ."

This is an example of the feeling of kinship with birds that Millay often expresses with emotional effect and which places her in the company of Elizabethans like William Shakespeare and Romantic Age poets like John Keats and Percy Bysshe Shelley. Sheean makes this

observation during an informative comparison of Millay with other writers who have used birds as natural resources for artistic expression. "All lyric poets, it may be supposed," Sheean says, "have some degree of suspicion that what they do relates them to that one creature we know which has as the law of its being to sing and to fly."

Birds are heard in her poem, "Journey."

"Cat-birds call
Through the long afternoon, and creeks at dusk
Are guttural. Whip-poor-wills wake and cry,
Drawing the twilight close about their throats.
Only my heart makes answer."

A woman is saddened at the going of the birds in "When the Year Grows Old."

"She used to watch the swallows
Go down across the sky,
And turn from the window
With a little sharp sigh."

Sheean probes the deep recesses of history and psychology for more insight into Millay's reliance on bird imagery and allusions. He finds that in ancient Greece birds were divine messengers. A legendary king in India owed much of his prowess to his understanding the language of birds who warned him of dangers. Certain North American Indian tribes believed that "The Old Woman Who Never Dies," an earth-mother goddess who controlled crops, sent migrating waterfowl north as messengers.

After citing other examples, Sheean reports 'that a weight of evidence has accumulated in modern psychology and goes on accumulating to the effect that beliefs held so widely and deeply, over what must have been an immense stretch of human time, have left a residue in the consciousness of civilized mankind, in its treasures of symbol even in the unconscious, and in its instinctive behavior." This describes the archetypal theory of psychologist Dr. Carl Jung and helps explain for Sheean the generally great interest in birds and why 'bird watching and bird listening are pursuits which with a good many men and women become a primary interest in life." The theory also helps explain for him why Edna St. Vincent Millay's poetry metaphorically takes on characteristics of the bird. He hears in her poetry "a singing line, a contained and articulated melody. . . . it sings, like the indigo bunting."

Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr. 333 Bedell Street, Freeport, N.Y. 11520

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October 18, 19 & 20, 1974 at Dunkirk-Fredonia, N.Y.

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